[Ford, Emanuel.]

The most Pleasant

HISTORY

OF

Ornatus and Artesia:

SHEWING

The Tirannical and Wicked Reign of *Thean*,

King of Phrigia;

Who having murthered his Lawful Soveraign Usurped the Kingdom, and grievously oppresst the People, was afterwards slain by one of his own Servants.

With the manner of his Son *Lenons* falling in love with the Fair *Artesia*; his several strange and unheard of Plots, contrived to attain his desires, and the miseries she endured thereby, till by the Prudence, Valor, and Fortitude of *Ornatus*, she was set at liberty.

Also, how by the assistance of the King of *Armenia*, and the policy of *Philastes*, *Ornatus* recovered the Kingdom (to which he was right Heir) and afterwards he and *Artesia*, being Royally married together, Crowned King and Queen of PHRIGIA.

The sixth Impression; Exactly corrected and amended.

London, Printed by *E. Alsop* and *R. Wood*, for *Thomas Vere* and *William Gilbertson*.

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TO

His Noble and Ingenuous Friend,

Mr.

Edmond Buckworth,

Of the County of

NORFOLK;

GENTLEMAN.

SIR,

I Have nouriſht in my ſelf a continual care of ſeeking opportunities to do you ſervice, and take more delight in rendring my ſelf yours, then in the wayes of the World: I beſeech you therefore (ſince the Author of this well-poliſht Hiſtory is deceaſed) to honour me with the acceptation of this Dedication: It preſenteth it ſelf in a home-bred dreſs, in well applied words, and not in tedious borrowed phraſes, wherein the well affected ſhall not find any cauſe of offence, the vertuous any terms to diſcontent them, nor the vitious any examples

to suit with their evil dispositions. Here you may see Usurpation tirannize Avarice guilty of murther, and Lust leaving no unlawful means unattempted to satisfie his Lacivious appetite, yet all these subdued by Vertue. Sir, I have taken upon me the boldness to present it to you, to shew that I am not altogether unmindful to gratifie those many civil courtesies I have received of you, and I desire you to accept of it as the sum of that which my ability (in this my clouded condition) can afford. The subject being but a fancie of the witty Authors, I know is not suitable to your grave disposition, yet the sage Cicero took much pleasure in reading the works of Ovid, and that worthy of the World, Alexander the Great, took such delight in Homers Illiads, that in his Youth he slept with them under his Pillow. Since then many Learned and Honourable persons have delighted in Histories of this Nature, look not upon the value of the Gift, but the real affection of the Giver, who is cordially devoted to you, and will be ready to shew his reallity in any trial you shall make thereof. I must ac-

know-

knowledge my self an enemy to Courtship and think it a sin unpardonable to doubt your Noblenes in the acceptation; therefore amidst my misfortunes, I am proud of the honour to make your goodnes known to the World. Sir, the reception of this, shall make me conserve the memory of all your other Favours, which have so extremely obliged me, that I must needs remain

Robert Wood.

THE

THE PRINTER TO THE READER

Courteous Friend,

THe Writings of this worthy Author were so well approved of by our sage Ancestors, that I am confident they will not be dis-relisht in this Critical Age: This was the first born of his Virgin Quill, therefore the Judicious will according to the quality of their dispositions valew the work not by the worth, but by the good intention of the Pen-man. As for those that lavishly dislike, or rashly condemn without judgement, their censures are of no more estimation then the Down of Thistles, which is dispersst with every blast: His desire was onely to gain the good opinion of the judicious, and those well affected to Learning, which I hope your goodness will afford him, in confidence whereof I shall continue for ever,

Yours;

Robert Wood.

The

The most

Pleasant History

OF

ORNATUS

AND

ARTESIA.

CHAP. I.

How *Ornatus* became enamoured of the fair *Artesia*.

THere lived in the renowned Country of Phrigia two ancient Noble men, the one named Allinus, the other Arbastus, men of great Possessions, and much honoured: betwixt whom such extream contention and hatred remained, by reason of the death of one Renon, brother to Allinus, long since slain in a quarrel by certain Gentlemen belonging to Arbastus, that neither their own wisdome, nor their friends perswasions could mitigate the same; both of them being enriched with innumerable Blessings, especially in their fair Progeny.

Allinus

Allinus had a Son of a goodly stature and commendable gifts, named Ornatus; and Arbastus a Daughter called Arcesia, whose beauty was admired by all that see her, yet by reason of the discord that was betwéen the Parents, they had no knowledge of each other.

Ornatus above all things delighted in Hawking, and on a day wandred without company with his Hawk on his fist into a pleasant Valley, where he sat down under the shade of the green Trees, with purpose to rest himself, and as he was inclining to slumber, he was suddenly rouzed by the noise of a kennel of Hounds that past by him in chase of a Stag, after whom Arbastus and divers in his company followed, and being past by, he espied a beautiful Damzel entring the said Valley, who being weary alighted there, which Ornatus seeing withdrew himself, whilest she laid her delicate body on the cooling Earth to refresh her self and dry up her Sweat; which the sooner to accomplish she unlaced her Garments, and with a decent and comely behaviour discovered her Milk white Neck and Breast, beautified with two round precious Teats to receive the breath of the cool Wind, which was affected with a delight to exhale the moistned vapours from her pure Body.

Ornatus seeing all, and unséen himself, noted with a delight each proper Lineament of her proper body, beauty, sweet labour, and other comeliness, which filled his heart with exceeding pleasure, growing into an unrestrained affection toward her, studying what she should be: When suddenly his Hawk feeling his fist moveable, thinking to pearch, did with quiet prune her self, and having taken Wing, with the noise of his Bells in the Arcesia start, who as one half aghast, with a fearful shadow rose from the ground, and looking round about her to perceive from whence that sound came, she espied Ornatus, who unwilling she should know that he had seen her, lay as if he had been fast asleep: Arcesia marvelling what he should be, and accordingly thinking he had slept, closed up her naked Breast with great great haste, and unlaesig her Horse,

thought

thought to go away unespied; which Ornatus perceiving, and unwilling without speaking to her to lose her sight, seemed to awake, and calling himself stedfastly beheld her, which infused such a Vermilion blush into her beautiful cheeks, and such a confusion was spread all over her, that she stood like one half amazed; which he perceiving drew towards her, and greeted her with these speeches, saying:

Fair Damzel, be not dismayed with my presence, though a stranger, who shall no way, if I can chuse, offend you, but rather command me, and I will be ready to do you any service: Yet Artelia not withstanding his speeches, withdrew her self aside, leading her Horse to a Bank, where with ease she mounted, and so rode away, not giving him any answer at all.

He greatly marvelled thereat, yet rightly imputed her unkind departure to her fear, not discourtesie; and seeing himself deprived of her sight, and the night approaching, he departed home to his Fathers house.

After Supper, betaking himself to his Chamber (with intent to rest) he was possessed with such remembrance of the beautiful Damzel he had seen, that his sleep was transformed into continual cogitations of her beauty, and the pleasant sight he had seen in the discovery of some of her hidden Features, imprinted such a delight in his affectionate conceits, that he could take no rest, but continued all that night in those meditations. The next morning, thinking to shake off all further remembrance of her, he got him into the company of his most chosen friends, wherein formerly he took most delight; yet now by reason of his distemperature, he seemed to be weary of them. He had not continued long with them, but he was saluted by a Gentleman, named Philastes, with whom he was familiarly acquainted. This Gentleman belonged to an ancient Duke named Turnus, who at that time solemnized the honour of his Birth day, from which Alliens excused him self, because he thought he should meet Arbastus there; but least the Duke should justly be offended with him, he granted that his Son Ornatus should go to do him honour.

Which Philastes acquainted Ornatus withal, who glad thereof, departed thither in company of divers other Gentlemen: The Duke likewise had sent another Messenger to request Arbastus company, who being of a more mild Nature then Allinus, willingly went, and with him his Lady and fair Daughter Artesia.

CHAP. II.

How *Ornatus* came to the knowledge of *Artesia*, and entreated *Adellena* to make known his love to her; and of the rebuke *Artesia* gave her.

After the Feast was ended, and the Duke had honoured his Guests with all manner of courtesie, he and the principallest (amongst whom Arbastus was chief) according to the custome used in that Countrey, seated themselves to behold certain Games and Exercises to be performed by the young Gentlemen, which was Running, Wrestling, and divers other Exercises for trial of the strength and nimblenels of the body: Among the rest Ornatus (having never before made trial of himself) had such good success, and behaved himself with such agility and strength, that he won the chiefest Honour, and was presented before the Duke to receive a rich Reward.

Which when he had received, casting his Eyes upon the beholders, he espied Artesia, whom he perfectly knew again, ready to depart with her Parents, who had bidden the Duke farewel. Ornatus coming to Philastes, asked if he knew that Damzel, shewing him Artesia, who told him what she was.

Ornatus was glad of that small knowledge, which could do little means to his hopes, yet remained somewhat discontented that she was Daughter to Arbastus. And thus the day being ended, every one departed to their several habitations.

Ornatus having again attained his Chamber, spent his time

time of rest in sundry cogitations of his love, and how she might have knowledge of his affection, noting every danger, and pondering how discontentedly his Parents would take the same, if it should by any means come to their knowledge. He apprehended so many lets to hinder him, that he was oftentimes in despair of attaining to the least hope of good success: But finding his affection to encrease more and more, and burning with a fervent desire, which nothing but onely her favour could extinguish, he past away many melancholly hours, labouring by all means possible to arrive at the accomplishment of his desires.

After that night was past, early the next morning, he wandred towards the place where he had beheld her with such exceeding content; and by the way as he went, he met with a Gentlewoman named Adellena, of mean Birth and small living, yet of good Education, who oftentimes resorted to Arbastus house, and to as going thither at that time, into whose company he insinuated himself, and said:

Gentlewoman, I am bold to entreat a word or two with you. Sir, replied she, with a good will, I will satisfie you in what I can. Know you not quoth he, Arbastus? I do, said she, both know him, and am very well acquainted with him, unto whose house I am now going. So would I, quoth he, if I durst, for I serve Ornatus Son to Allinus, whom I doubt not but you know, of whom I could speak more, but that I am unwilling to be so injurious, as to discover his secrets to one I know not; yet if you promise to be secret, and afford your help for to further him (which you may with safety perform) you shall do him an exceeding pleasure, and withal be so highly rewarded and well gratified, that you shall think your labour very well imployed, and binde him in perpetual bands of love and friendship.

Sir, replied Adellena, I know not the Gentleman, yet I have heard him very much commended, whom if I could any way pleasure, I would use both diligence and secrecie, promising you upon my Faith and Credit, if you will make me

quainted with your minde, I will either do my good will to further him, or else conceal what you have already spoken.

Then (quoth he) my Master not long since walking in yonder Valley, beheld the fair Artesia Daughter to Arbastus, to whose beauty he is so exceedingly enthralled, that unless he find some meanes of comfort to ease his torments, I fear me it will endanger his life, whom you may pleasure by making his love known to her, in such sort as shall best agree with your wisdom: This is all, and yet so much, that the revealing thereof may do much harm: And to effect such a Contract might procure peace and amity betwixt their Parents, therefore I entreat your aid and furtherance herein; with which good news if I return to him, I know it will breed no little comfort to his disquiet heart.

Sir, said she, since I perceive his love is grounded upon vertue (not drawn thereto by any desire of reward) I undertake to be his assistant herein, and will to the utmost of my endeavour, labour to procure his content, which this day I will in some part begin to put in execution, and if you return unto me to morrow you shall know her answer. I will, said he, and so they departed.

Ornatus having left her, entred into many cogitations of this rash attempt, accounting himself over credulous to commit his secrets to her privity, of whose fidelity he had never made trial; sometimes comforting himself with hope of good event, and again despairing of comfort, for that he supposed Artesia would rather esteem him as an Enemy then a Friend, by reason of their Parents hatred, and therefore would the more hardly be drawn to give any credit to his suit: Revolving a chaos of these and such like confused cogitations, he attained to his Fathers house, thinking the time tedious until his appointed meeting Adellena, who after her departure from him, soon arrived at Arbastus house, and using her self as she had done formerly, yet careful how to execute the charge she had (which she could by no occasion utter till after Dinner) she found Artesia alone in the Garden, and having insinuated her

her self into her company, which Artesia kindly excepted: She entred into variety of Discourses, and continued sometimes in giving certain Hearbs their proper names: Amongst the rest Artesia espied a Hearb with party coloured Leaves, and demanded of Adellena if she knew the name of it, which she told her she did not. I have oftentimes, quoth Artesia, seen this Hearb, and it hath two pretty names: It is by some called Love in Idleness, and by others, Hearts-ease: whereupon Adellena fetch a deep, though counterfeit, sigh, which Artesia noting said: What makes you sigh, to hear it named Hearts ease, Marry, replied she, one why, because those two names so ill agree; another, for by the same I call to mind the hearts grief I heard a young man complain of, procured by love, which was not in idleness, but I think in good earnest. Why quoth Artesia, can love procure such hearts grief to any, and not rather content, Yes, said she, because the party in love, hath no hope to attain the good liking of the party he loveth. Then (quoth Artesia) I account him a Fool that will love so deeply without hope of Reward, and that to be rather fondness then true friendship, where Affections are placed with such inequalities: But I pray tell me what is he, into whose secrets you were so suddenly admitted, Not admitted, (replied she) for unawares I heard his complaints, which afterwards I promised not to make any acquainted withal, but the party whom he so entirely loveth. Then (quoth Artesia) I may not know, neither do I care, for it is but a vanity that troubles ones mind.

Yes (quoth she) you may, and shall if you please, know who it is, upon condition you will neither be offended with me for telling you, nor reveal what I impart. Why (replied Artesia) am I the party, or doth it any way concern me, that I should be offended, if I be, then keep your counsels unrevealed, for it will prove unsavory to my Stomach, for by it far from me to be troubled with the vain suits of doting Lovers. What let me answer (quoth Adellena;) you bear too grievous a conceit of love, which is the Divine party whereby hearts are

united

unites in vertue. Without the which neither mortals can attain Heaven, nor other creatures have their being, therefore not to be abhorred: and for that any ſhould love your ſelf, can that be any offence to you, but rather be accepted in kinde ſort? We ſhould by Nature love them that love us, then will you contrary to Nature, yield hatred for love: For you indeed are the party that is beloved, and the party that is ſo far in love with you every way to be commended, whoſe name I will forbear to reveal, and then I hope I ſhall give no offence to your chaſte Ears.

Do ſo (quoth Arteſia) for concealing the ſame you will pleaſe me, and if you will be welcome into my company, uſe no more of theſe ſpeeches. Had I thought, quoth ſhe, they would have been offenſive, I would not have uttered them, but in ſo doing, I did but fulfil your requeſt: Then at my requeſt again, quoth ſhe, give over. After this communication ended, they parted, Adellena home to her houſe, and Arteſia to her Chamber, where at firſt ſome thoughts of theſe ſpeeches poſſeſt her fancy, but afterwards ſhe ſpent the reſt of the night in quiet ſleep.

CHAP. III.

How *Adellena* conveyed *Ornatus* Letter into *Arteſias* Caſket, and with what impatience ſhe took the ſame.

EArly at the approach of the next morning, Ornatus (who with a greedy expectation waited for it) aroſe, and ſoon got to Adellenaes houſe, where he arrived before ſhe was up, who having knowledge thereof, ſoon came down to him, taking him to be no other then Ornatus his man, to whom ſhe declared the very truth of all her ſpeeches had with Arteſia, which nipt him to the heart: But receiving ſome hope by her perſwaſions, he gave her a Purſe full of Gold, in recompence of her laſt pains; and to entice her to undertake more, he ſaid:

Such

Good Adellena, be not dismaid to prosecute my suit for Artesiaes first frown, for I am not Ornatus man, but yor Ornatus himself, that languish with desire to attain her love, which I would my self prosecute, if the discord between our Parents did not hinder the same; therefore I beseech you once again do something in my behalf, for you see how cruel Destiny hath shut me from all means to be put in practise by my self, and you may pleasure me without any hazard at all, for which I will rest so thankful unto you, as that you shall account your pains taken well bestowed.

Sir, replied she, I would undertake any thing to further you, if I knew which way, but I perceive Artesia's frowardness is such, that nothing I shall bring her will be welcome; but if you will advise me what I shall do, I will once again hazard the loss of her good liking for your sake; which said, Ornatus wrote a Letter, which he desired her by some means to convey to her sight, the contents whereof were these.

To the Fairest *ARTESIA.*

Fairest of Creatures,

BE not offended with my boldness, but rather favourably censure of my good meaning; for being bound to honour none but your most vertuous self, I thought it my Duty to give you knowledge thereof, desiring you to pity the extremity of my passions, procured by the attainder of your conquering perfections: I confess you may alleadge many things, as reasons to disswade you from giving credit to my Speeches, or yielding me the least favour in your conceits: Yet (I beseech you) make but trial of my Loyalty, Love, and Duty, so far as shall agree with your liking, and you shall finde me constant in the one, and perseverant in the other, as one that hath submitted himself to your command, vowed his Devotions to purchase your favour, and everlastingly bound himself to be onely yours: Unable to express my humble meaning, unwilling to be offensive, and desirous of favour, I beseech you to be favourable to me, though bearing

ing the name of an Enemy; in whom you ſhall find the true heart of a conſtant Friend, whoſe ſafety, comfort, and preſervation, reſteth in your power: The firſt view of your Beauty (which was in the Valley when you were laſt Hunting) ſurprized my Heart with ſuch humble regard to your vertues, that ever ſince I have endured the bitter torments of fearful diſpair, which urgeth me to this preſumption; deſiring from your Sacred Lips to receive my Sentence of Comfort or Affliction, rather then to ſpend my life in languiſhing, by an unreveaſed torment: Then be you gratious to him, that is otherwiſe moſt miſerable, and ſhew favour to an undeſerving unknown Friend; ſo ſhall you not onely ſhew that you are merciful, but alſo ſave a miſerable Lover from utter ruine:

Your humble Friend,

ORNATUS.

Adellena having received this Letter, told him ſhe would deliver the ſame, which the next day ſhe performed in this ſort: Being come to Arbaſtus houſe, ſhe continued moſt part of the day in Arteſias company, not once renewing the leaſt remembrance of the talk ſhe had with her the day before; but eſpying her open her Caſket, wherein ſhe put her work, whileſt Arteſia was buſie, ſhe privily conveyed the Letter unſeen into the ſame, which by and by Arteſia locked, for none but her ſelf had the uſe thereof.

Adellena thought the time tedious till ſhe had taken her leave, fearing leaſt Arteſia ſhould upon ſome occaſion open the Caſket again, and ſo find the Letter while ſhe was there; therefore ſhe ſoon found means to depart. When the time of reſt was come, and Arteſia alone in her Bed, ſhe took a Book, according to her uſual manner, to read a while, but ſuddenly left off, and in her ſleep was poſſeſt with a Dream, wherein her thoughts called to remembrance Adellenaes ſpeeches, which moved ſuch a diſquiet conceit of anger in her

Breaſt,

Breast, that thinking she had chid her, with the motions of her Spirits she awaked, and feeling a distemperature in all her parts, and seeing the Light still burning, she marvelled at her drowsiness, that had before forgot to put the same out; and by this means called to remembrance Adellenaes speeches, marvelling what he should be that was so in love with her, and suddenly again reproving her self for giving her minde liberty to think on love, she would have banished all further remembrance out of her mind; but the more she laboured, the more unable she was to prevail in overmastering her fancies, that being both vext with her self and Adellena, she uttered these speeches:

What disquiet is this possesseth my heart, and procureth such unwonted cogitations to rise in my fancies, and disturbs my rest? I was not used to trouble my self with these vanities, which the more I labour to suppress, the more they increase: Could Adellenaes speech have such force (which I had well nigh forgotten) as thus long to stick in my remembrance? Or what reason have I to regard them that were not worth the hearing, but rather intended to demonstrate the affection of some fond Lover, that seeks to entrap my Chastity. May her Lips be hereafter closed for uttering them, and would I had been deaf at that time, and not heard her Enchanting sound.

This said, she catcht up her Book, thinking by reading to drive away all remembrance thereof, but her heart was so fully possest what he should be, that she neither could read, or when she had read, remember what it was: And finding this means not to avail, she started from her Bed, opening the Casket to take out her Sampler, wherein she took most delight, and suddenly espied the Letter, and reading the Superscription, was half astonished thereat, especially to think how it should come there, and what the Contents might be, often being minded to tear the same in pieces, and not read it, which her heart would not suffer her to do before she had seen what were the Contents; yet striving to overmatter her Affections,

the tars the same in the middest; which done, such a remorse rose in her fancy, united with a desire to know further thereof, that leaping into the Bed, she closed the same together, and betwixt a willing and unwilling minde read the same quite out: whereupon fetching a deep sigh, she said: Ah my poor Soul, how are my affections betrayed to my Enemy? Was it Ornatus she meant? Can it be that he will prove my friend, that is my professed enemy? Oh no, he intendeth nothing lesse then love, but rather under colour thereof seeks my ruine. Was it he that I beheld in the Valley? O; is it possible he should be so deeply in love with me upon that small sight? O no, I will not credit his speeches, but still repute him as an enemy, as indeed he is, and henceforth abandon Adellenaes company, by whose means this Letter was conveyed hither: then tearing the same into a thousand pieces, she abstained so much as she could from all thought of yielding the least consent to love, and sought to encrease her disdain and suspect of his faithlesse, spending the rest of that night in confused contradictions of doubtful thoughts. Early in the morning she got up, and within short time met with Adellena, who was come with a desire to know what issue her device had taken, and finding occasion fit, when none was by, she uttered these speeches:

Adellena, I marvel what folly ruleth your minde, that you, whom I thought had been so vertuously given, should seek my ruine: wherein have I shewed my self so discourteous, that you should thus requite me in this unworthy manner: You remember the speeches that past betwixt us the other day in the Garden, when I finding out your intent by your speeches desired you to give over, and not to use any more talk to that end, which you faithfully promised, but now most unfaithfully have broken, and more impudently have betraid my quiet with your disquiet and ill sounding newes: If your rudeness were such, that you would not desist, you might then have delivered Ornatus false and feigned Enchantment into my power, and not so secretly have conveyed the same into my Cabinet,

sket, wherein you have made me amends for all my love, in seeking to betray my life into the hands of mine enemy; for otherwise I neither can nor will esteem him; therefore henceforward come no more in my company, for I forswear your familiarity, hate your counsels, and will cause my Father to banish you from the house, and alienate his friendship from you for ever.

Adellena would have answered; but Artesia refusing to hear her departed, and left her so much grieved, that immediately she went home to her own house.

CHAP. IV.

How *Ornatus* despairing, left his Fathers House; and disguising himself was entertained by *Arbanes*.

ORnatus desirous to hear how Artesia had accepted his Letter, came to Adellenaes house, where he found her weeping exceedingly, who being very earnest to know the cause thereof, she told him; which caused such sorrow to possess his mind, that without yielding her thanks for her pains, or other speech he departed: Being so much overcome with inward sorrow, that finding a solitary place he laid himself down upon the Earth, uttering these lamentations.

O miserable Caitiff, what hast thou to do but grieve, when thy ill fortune yields nothing but cause of lamentation; why should thy life last to endure these torments, and not rather to dissolve into unseen essences; Could any thing have happened to me more miserable then to behold Artesia, and now to endure her cruelty? or more fortunate if she had been merciful; but the Destinies have drawn me to like her that hates me, and become a Captive to a cruel and unrelenting enemy. Well, my Lode is sweeter then my life, and therefore I will hazard all to purchase her liking.

Having said this, he a while sate silent, when suddenly to further his extremities, he beheld certain of his familiars goe by, with whom he departed home.

Early the next morning, being exceedingly troubled in mind, and impatient of delay, he left his fathers house to visit Adellena again, whom he had the day before left so unkindly; whom he found ready to go to Arbastus house, and saluting her said: Adellena, be not offended at my last unmannerly departure, for my heart was so much disquieted at the ill success my suit took, that I could not use that behaviour toward you that your pains deserved; but now I am returned to ask your counsel what is further to be done herein.

Sir, replied she, I know not what further means to use, neither dare I any more attempt to try Artesias courtesie, who is already so much offended with me, that I fear I shall lose her friendship for ever, if I should utter that again which is so unwelcome unto her.

Ornatus hearing her speeches, thought she was unwilling to prosecute his suit any further, and with a heavy heart left her, entring into many thoughts which way to comfort himself, oftentimes utterly despairing: But at the last, he resolved to leave no means unattempted nor danger unstirred, though with hazard of his life, to procure some rest to his oppressed and grieved Spirit.

Then he began to think with himself, what should make Artesia so hard hearted as to give no credit to his speeches. It is not her want of lenity, pity, or wisdom, for she is young, and therefore subject to love, beautiful, and therefore to be won, wise, and therefore will with consideration pity my sorrowes; what then should alienate her good liking from me, more then any other? my name, for by that she reputes me an enemy, then if I were not Ornatus, she would peradventure respect me, and give some regard to my suit; therefore I will seem to be what I am not, that she not knowing me, may (if not love me) yet desist to hate me. Then he began to study what means to use to enjoy her sight, without which, he could

not live, and yet not be known what he was. Amongst many devices this took most effect: Within few dayes after, having provided all things necessary, he attired himself like a Virgin of a strange Country, which he might well be esteemed to be by his youth, and taking with him his Lute, whereon he could play exceeding well, in the silent of the night he departed towards the Sea-coast, which was near unto Arbastus house, and seating himself upon the Rocky Shore, began to play upon his Lute. Early the next morning a Shepheard happed to pass by that way, and hearing his sweet Musick, chanced to look about and espied him, and thereupon stated to see what he was.

Ornatus turning himself about, espied the old man stand gazing upon him, whereupon he drew towards him, and said as followeth:

Good Father, muse not to see me in this unfrequented place, being by Shipwrack cast on this Shore, and preserved from a grievous death by Sea to perish for want of comfort on the Land in a strange place, where I neither have friends nor acquaintance, therefore I beseech you yield comfort to my distress, and succour to my want.

Fair Damzel, quoth the Shepheard, if my homely Cottage can afford you any comfort, to please you to accept thereof, it shall be at your command, whither if you please to go, without any more circumstance of speeches, you shall be most heartily welcome. I thank you, quoth Ornatus, and I accept your gentle proffer; so they departed together: And when they were entred, and the Shepherdess in the best manner she could had welcomed him, and he had eat of such food as was set before him, he told them his name was Silvia, relating some circumstances sufficient to countenance the manner of their Shipwrack, shewing reasons why he undertook that Voyage by Sea, which the old Folks believed: He likewise framed himself to such a kind of excellent behaviour, that it was almost impossible for any to discern but that he was a very Maid indeed.

Silvia,

Silvia (for under that name he shall pass a while) staied there some two dayes, but yet without any hope how to enioy Artesiaes company. And the third day it fortuned, Arbastus being a hunting, a violent storm chanced to arise, and seeking for shelter he lighted on the Shepherds cottage, where he presently entred without speaking or knocking, and espying Silvia was halt astonished to behold a Damzel so beautiful and richly attired in that homely place; and when he had viewed her well, seeing her alone, with a mild and courteous behaviour he said:

Fair Damzel, pardon my boldness if I have disquieted you, for I little thought to have found such a person in this place. Silvia knowing who he was arose, but made him no answer: immediately whereupon the old Shepheard came in, using great reverence to Arbastus, who demanded of him what Damzel that was, whereupon the old man declared all that he knew. Arbastus then said:

Lady, I understand by this Shepherd some part of your misfortunes, which I so much pity, that I will do any thing I can to procure your content: And because this place is not agreeable to your Birth, which may be greater then I can imagine, let me entreat you to accept of such entertainment as my habitation yieldeth, whether you shall be welcome. Silvia, being glad of that proffer, yet fearing to be discovered by her willingness to yield, made this answer:

Sir, this homely place is best agreeing to my poor estate, being by misfortune brought to misery, which I am also unworthy of, for that I know not how to make mine best amends, desiring rather to live in this place void of care, then in places of more Dignity; but because I shall be too chargeable to this poor man, and you desire the same, I shall be so bold as to take your proffer, though unable to be so grateful as I would.

Many other speeches past betwixt them, till at last they departed towards the Castle, where Silvia was kindly entertained, now having his hearts desire; which was to enjoy the sight of Artesia,

Orbacus

Ornatus being alone by himself, began to meditate on the good success he had in this attempt, and how fortunately all things had fain out to further him in his love: But he marvelled that the Eyes of all that had beheld him should be so deluded as not to perceive what he was.

In these and such like meditations he spent some three or four dayes, taking such great content in beholding Artesias perfections, that he was now more deeply enthralled then he was before, by hearing of her speech, noting her behaviour, and admiring her vertue, commending her courtesie, affecting her beauty, imprinting each lineament of her Divine form in his affection, with such immoveable resolves of constant loyalty, that he did not onely love her, but also honour her as an Idol, enjoying her company at all times by her Fathers command. Artesia likewise took no little pleasure in Silviaes company, in whom so much courtesie did abound, that all that saw her commended her.

CHAP. V.

How *Adellena* brought tidings to *Arbastus* House of *Ornatus* sudden departure: How he naming himself *Silvia* a long time enjoyed her company; and what success befel him in his Love.

Up this time Adellena had heard of Ornatus departure from his Fathers house, and of the exceeding grief and care his Parents took, fearing least he might by some Treachery be murthered, whereupon she soon brought tidings to Arbastus house and published the same; which came to Arbastus hearing, who was grieved exceedingly to hear the same, for that he esteemed very well of Ornatus: And now coming into the Garden where Artesia was walking with Silvia, Adellena could not withhold her self from

from ſpeaking, but uttered her minde thus: Arteſia be not offended with what I ſay, but rather be diſpleaſed with your ſelf, who are the original of all this woe: Ornatus whom you ſuppoſed your enemy, though indeed your moſt faithful friend, taking your unkind refuſal moſt heavily, and accounting himſelf not worthy to live if you deſpiſed him, either hath wrought his own untimely death, or deſpairing to find favor at your hands, hath abandoned both his Country, Parents, and Acquaintance, to live in exile: What will be ſaid of you when the cauſe of his ſorrow ſhall be known, How may your own Conſcience accuſe your ſelf of hard heartedneſs, that would not yield pity to the diſtreſs of ſo worthy and courteous a Gentleman, who for his humble ſuit was ſpitefully diſdained, and for his loving good will rejected, which cruel deed of yours no doubt will one day be repaid with the like diſdain, whom you ſhall moſt affect: I know his love was firm, conſtant, and immoveable, which maketh me ſo much the more pity his eſtate: I knew his meaning was both honourable and virtuous, and his birth you knew: What vertues abounded in him all can witneſs, and how heartily he loved you, the Heavens know. Poor Ornatus farewel, hard was thy hap to place thy true love ſo firmly, where thou reapeſt ſo little reward.

Arteſia hearing her ſpeeches, could not tell whether ſhe might blame her, or accuſe her ſelf; ſometimes doubting, whether ſhe ſpoke this of policie to try her, or of truth, being as ready to blame her, as to accuſe her ſelf, ſometimes doubting neither: for ſhe thought if ſhe ſpake true, ſhe had good cauſe to ſay what ſhe did, and her ſelf more to be blamed then any: for notwithſtanding ſhe had given Adellena ſo flat a denial, yet her Conſcience knew ſome ſparks of love was kindled in her breaſt, inſomuch her heart being oppreſt with theſe cogitations, it cauſed the tears to ſtand in her Eyes. Ornatus ſeeing all this, took no little comfort thereat, eſpecially when he perceived Arteſiaes heart relent; but by reaſon of this diſguiſe, being known for no other then a Woman, he kept ſilence

lence, when fain he would have spoken, but feared least he should discover himself. Adellena seeing the had disquieted Artesia, being her self full of grief, and unwilling to urge any further departed, and Artesia withdrawing her self from Silviaes company into an Arbour, uttered these speeches:

Can it be that Ornatus love was so great, that for my sake he hath done this? Could he love her so constantly that was his professt enemy? Is love of such a force as to draw one into these extreams? Then may I compare it to the Heard Artas found in Persia, which being but held in the hand, causeth a heat through all the body; so love entertained but in thought disquieteth all the Senses: But why do I conceive so well of Ornatus, when I do not know the truth of Adellenaes report? It may be he hath hired her to do this, whereby I may be deceived, yielding to pity when there is no cause; like the Bird Archantus, ready to come at every call. Admit it were so, I am not bound to favour him, for he is my enemy, and Son to my Fathers chiefest foe: What reason then have I either to give credit to his love or her protestation, when both may be feigned? Well, I will be advised before I yield my self to loves inchanting baits, and before I love, I will know whom I love: But Artesia thy fancie yields remorse already, and thy Conscience bids thee pity him because he loveth thee; for love in a reputed enemy, may be as constant and loyal as in an open friend, and an enemy becoming a friend will be the more constant: Then what hast thou to do, but to make further trial of his constancy, and finding him true, yield Reward to his Desert: Soft, go not too far; grant he be constant, loyal, and love thee so entirely, yet now thou hast made him forsake his Country, and peradventure hast procured his untimely death, there is nothing else to be done but to pity him and accuse my self of discourtesie. All this while Ornatus shrouded himself from her sight by the thickness of the Green Leaves, and heard her speeches to his exceeding comfort, again closely withdrawing himself. But he hearing both her speeches arose and came to the supposed Silvia to

whom she said: My mind is somewhat troubled since I heard of Ornatus absence, whom because you know not I will tell what he was.

There dwelleth not far hence one Allinus, that mortally hates my Father and all that belong unto him, whose Son Ornatus was, whom if I should commend, you might think me too cruel to refuse his love so unkindly, onely thus much I will say of him, He was every way worthy to be beloved, although my fancy could never be drawn to like of him, who upon what occasion I know not, but as Adellena told me, made his love known to her, which she likewise told me of, but I refusing to hear her objections, answered, That I was greatly offended with her for making any such motion, prohibiting her to speak of him hereafter. But now this day you have heard what she hath told me, which I can hardly believe to be true, to think he would be so rash without wisdom to enter into these extreams: But if it be so (as I would it were not) it grieveth me for him, and I wish that I had not refused to hear his suit, though I am not willing to yield thereto; for I would not have it said of me, nor have my name so much blazed, that my cruelty procured him that extremity, though his wisdome might have foreseen such mischief, and more moderately have tempered his love.

Ornatus taking occasion said: I neither know the Gentleman nor how constant his love was, but thus much my mind perswades me, that had not his love been great, he would not have grieved so much at your unkindness: But love is of such force that it turns the mind into extreams or suddenly breaks the heart, which force belike it had in him, else would he not have done himself so much harm. But it may be (as you say) Ornatus hath not done himself out-rage, but onely abandoning company liveth in despair and so meaneth to die, which if it be so, then in my opinion, you might do well to let him by some means understand that you do pity him. Why there, replied she, you must first know whether I can do it or no; for if I should say I pity with my Lips, and he not finde it

so,

to, it would drive him to more despair, therefore I will leave off to do that till I can find whether I can do it or no.

These her speeches drave Ornatus into a perplexed doubt what to think, being no way assured of her love, nor yet utterly despairing thereof, for that her speeches gave likelihood of both, therefore he durst not speak too boldly least she should suspect him, but onely rested in good hope to find comfort, and by other means to try her.

Then taking his Lute he plaid so sweetly thereon, that it would have ravished a comfortless mind with great content, which harmony pleased Artesia so well, that when he left, she would request him, calling him Silvia, to play again. Whilest he late playing, Artesia sitting close by his side fell fast asleep, which he perceiving, left off his play to satisfie himself with beholding her sweet beauty, in which he took such delight, as almost ravished his senses; sometimes thinking that whilest she slept to imprint a kiss upon her ruddy Lips, but fearing thereby to awake her, and lose that delightful contemplation he desired: Beholding each part of her divine form, which was most Divine, his mind was affected with inward joy, to think what perfection her inward features did comprehend, which his fancy perswaded him to be rare and excellent: But seeing her fair, he suddenly caught up his Lute again, playing thereon to continue her in that sweet slumber, then laying by the same to enter into his former contemplation, he compared his delight to exceed all humane felicity, and wishing that if she could not love him, that she would grant as to to behold her.

When he had a good while continued in these meditations Artesia awoke, which somewhat grieved him, but when he beheld her beautious eyes fixed upon him, he thought himself enriched with a Heavenly happiness; to whom Artesia said: I thank the good Silvia, for by Musick hath somewhat eased my heart by this quiet sleep: Oh what content do they enjoy that live void of care: And how happy was I before I did hear Ornatus name; with that she arose, and departed.

When night approached, which he thought came too soon, for by that he must lose the sight of his beloved, he began to think what means to use to further his suit, wherein he found many difficulties; sometimes, thinking Artesia was in hope never to hear of him again, and sometimes supposing she did pity him: Being overcome with contrarieties of doubts, he uttered these complaints:

What should I do to procure my content, when my misery is one way great, and my joy as exceeding, when my despair exceedeth, and yet my comfort abounds? I enjoy Artesias love, and yet not her love: I enjoy her sight, and yet not her sight: I have as much comfort as filleth me with joy, and yet dangerous sick with despair. How can this be? She loveth me as I am Silvia, but hates Ornatus; under the name of Silvia I enjoy her sight, but not as Ornatus, whereby I am as it were deprived of seeing her; I reap exceeding comfort by beholding her beauty, but I live in despair least she should scorn love, if she knew what I were: Though I enjoy many things as being Silvia, yet am I deprived of all comfort, as being Ornatus; for she supposeth him to be dead or fled, having no hope ever to see him, and if I should shew any signe that he were living, or near, she would presently reject my company, which being as I am I may enjoy; and thus am I void of all means of obtaining her love, yet living as I do I shall still enjoy her. Why Ornatus then hast better means to give her knowledge of thy love in this disguise: Suppose then thou shouldest make known to her what thou art, thinkest thou she would betray thee, considering thou offerest no other behaviour towards her then what agreeth with vertue? What if she did betray thee, wert thou not better to endure the greatest extremity by her doue, then pine away with grief in her absence? Stay Ornatus, stay, in being as thou art, thou art more happy; for if she will not love thee, yet for thy good will she cannot hate thee; and though she know what thou art, she will rather conceal thee then betray thee; then try whether she loveth thee or no: But how: Make my self known?

known? No, I will write a Letter, which I will leave in some place where she may finde it, and by that means I shall see whether she will love me or no; and taking Pen, Ink, and Paper, he writ as followeth.

To the most Vertuous *ARTESIA*, the forsaken *ORNATUS* sendeth humble greeting.

Excellent Lady:

WEre you but so Merciful as Fair, I would not despair of pity, or were you willing to know my Truth and Loyalty, you would (though not yield to my suit) yet be more gentle to me: I cannot use protestations, or dissemble grief, but be you assured that what proceedeth out of my Lips comes from my heart: Extremity makes me overbold, and Despair makes me more desperate in uttering my mind: I cannot chuse but say I love you, for that I love indeed, nor can I set it forth with filed terms, but in plain truth protest that my Love is constant, loyal, vertuous, and immoveable, and though you hate, yet I must love, and although you for ever deny, yet will I still persist in constancy, for the worst I can endure is but Death, and that my Soul already feeleth. I have forsaken my Parents, Friends, and all, to become acceptable unto you: Whilest I was *Alinus* Son you did hate me, then I beseech you, now that I am not *Alinus* Son, nor *Ornatus*, pity me; for without your pity I die, and little can my death profit you; but letting me live, you shall for ever enjoy a faithful Servant: So most vertuous *Artesia*, I commit my cause to your wise consideration.

Yours inseparably, neither Ornatus, *nor Himself, but Your poor and faithful Servant.*

When he had written this Letter, and sealed the same, the next Morning he laid it in a place of the Garden, where he knew

knew Artesia would walk; and from thence coming to her Chamber, found her ready to go forth.

Artesia welcomed Silvia kindly, and forth they went together, and walking up and down together, Artesia espied the white Paper and desirous to see what it was took it up, and reading the Superscription marvelled what the contents should be, and how it should come there, and turning to Silvia, said: See you this Letter, it is directed to me, I marvel how it should come here, unless it were laid of purpose: Well, howsoever it be, I will read the contents, and you shall be partaker of them. When she had read the same, and well understood that it was Ornatus, she was exceedingly vexed, saying: I now perceive Ornatus was wiser then I took him to be; for I see he hath committed no outrage upon himself, but intends to try me first; and if I will not yield to love him, what will he do, marry return to his Father again: This is Adellenaes doing, and according as I thought they are agreed; she left this Letter here, and her I blame and not him, for had she not promised him to do it, he would never of himself have undertook it. Silvia I prithee counsel me what I should do herein, for my heart is opprest with many thoughts, which I will not utter until I know thy mind: whereupon she made this answer.

Madam, since it is your pleasure to grant me licence to deliver my mind, take it briefly thus: First, I say, if Ornatus loveth according as he protesteth, as no doubt but he doth, you have good reason to pity him, for that by your own report, he is every way worthy thereof, which if you do, you shall be sure of a constant friend, be a means to preserve his life, and make unity between your Parents: As for Adellena, if it were her deed, she did but the part of a friend; but it is very unlikely, for she was not here since yesterday; neither can I think any man so impious as to dissemble so much, as to protest such protestations and falsifie them, for his words in my fancy bear an evident likelihood of truth; therefore if I may counsel you, yield to that which is vertuous, and in so doing,

you

you shall purchase your own gain, his content, and perpetuo quiet to both your families.

Would you have me then, quoth she, yield to love mine Enemy? How is he your enemy, said Silvia, when he loves you? He is mine enemy, because his Father hates me, then how can he love me? Nay rather, quoth Silvia, his Father not loving you, how can he chuse but love you, because he sees them hate you that are worthy to be beloved; besides, their hatred being unjust, it shewes his vertue the more, to love those his Parents hate; and it is commonly seen where there is hatred betwixt the Parents, the Children have loved most dearly, as in common experience it is seen: Have you not read the Histories of Piramus and Thisby, Romeo and Juliet, and many others, whose love was the more constant, by so much more their Parents hatred was deadly.

I remember such Histories, quoth Artesia, but what was the end of their love; was it not most miserable? I grant it (said Silvia) but their misfortune was procured by their Parents cruelty, but not their love; wherein notwithstanding they took such felicity, that they rather chose to die together, then to be parted, which argueth that the enmity between parents cannot break off the love between children: yet might such Tragical events easily have been prevented by wisdom. But how shall I know, said Artesia, whether Ornatus love be so constant or no? Can you have any greater proof thereof, then his own Letters, the forsaking of his Parents, and living peradventure in penury; but if you doubt of that, once again try him.

Well, said Artesia, I asked but thy counsel, but instead thereof thou afest perswasion; but seeing thou art so forward to do me good, which I hope is thy intent, if thou wilt keep my counsel, thou shalt both know my minde, and what I intend. Assure your self, quoth Silvia, I will sooner lose my life, and comfort then prove unfaithful. Then, said she, I confess to thee, that Love hath made entrance into my heart, that willingly I should both pity Ornatus and grant his request; so

that

that with often remembring him I cannot forget him, neither doth any thought please me, but when I think of him; but there are so many slips to hinder our love, that though I love him, I should never enjoy him: For should my Parents but know thereof, they would pry so warily into my actions, that it were impossible for me once to have a sight of him, whom I do scarce remember I have so seldom seen. You may, quoth Silvia, both love him and enjoy him; and since you have began to like of him, he being worthy thereof, and equalling you in affection, increase that love; and might I but once come to speak to him, I would not doubt but to effect all things with such sincerity, that you should with quiet enjoy him.

Well, quoth Artesia, I commit all to you, my life, for that dependeth on my love, being willing to do any thing that shall not disagree with modesty, desiring you to keep my counsels secret for ever, for to reveal them, would hazard both his and my safety.

After many other speeches past between them, Adellena entred the Garden. Artesia espying her first, began thus to greet her:

Good-morrow Adellena, I know not whether I may salute thee as a friend, or a privy foe, for by thy means I am brought into bondage: I pray thee tell me without dissembling, which I fear thou canst do too well, when thou sawest Ornatus? and yet I know thy answer before I ask: Do'st thou not know this Letter, didst not hide it in the Garden that I might find it? did not Ornatus hire thee to say, that he was departed from his Fathers house while he lieth at home at thy house, I know thy answer will be no, but how may I believe thee, doest thou not likewise say he loves me, when thou knowest thee contrary and doest but dissemble, If thou harboured any vertue in thee, tell me the truth and dissemble not, for in so doing, thou wilt greatly content me, discharge thy Conscience, and peradventure do Ornatus a good turn. Adellena hearing her speeches, was so astonished at their strangeness, that for a good while she stood as one senseless, but at the

last

last she made this answer: Your demands are such, as that I know not how to answer them; but let the Gods punish me if I dissemble: I saw not Ornatus since the time he came to me, to know how you accepted the Letter which I conveyed into your Casket: For this Letter, I am altogether ignorant; neither did I ever see it before: I neither spake to Ornatus, saw Ornatus, or heard from him, since I last gave him your answer, neither know I where he is; but this I do know, That he is not to be found, but poor Gentleman languisheth in love; and I dare protest he loves you dearly, neither need you misdoubt that he is absent or hidden at my house, for it is too true he hath taken such grief at your unkindness, as will I fear me endanger his life: I wish it were not so, but that he were at my house, then would I rather counsel him to forget to love, then endanger his life thereby.

May I believe thee, said Artesia, that this thou sayest is true? Heavens let me live no longer, quoth Adellena, if it be not. Then replied Artesia, how should this Letter be conveyed here but by himself? with that the Christal tears fell from her Eyes.

CHAP. VI.

How *Ornatus* Love was hindred by News of *Arbastus* death: How *Floretus*, to attain *Silviaes* Love, both confest he slew *Arbastus*, and intended to poison *Artesia*.

TO augment Artesiaes tears, a Messenger hastily running, came in and brought this News, uttering the same with a very ghastly countenance, saying:

O Artesia, bear my Tragick story; Your Father as you know, rode forth this morning to chase the Fearful Deer, who wandring from his company, at last by his long tarriance was miss, and all of us

 comin

coming together, studied amongst our selves what should be become of him; at last we were commanded by Floretus your Uncle, to post several wayes in search of him, whom at last we found most grievously wounded and dead. Artesia hearing his words, fell down in a swound, which when Silvia perceived he caught her in his Armes, rubbing her pale Cheeks until she was revived again: Then they conveyed her to her Bed, in such extremity with that sudden grief, that they feared the loss of her life, which exceedingly tormented Silvia to behold: Then there was such an uproar in Arbastus house, as all seemed in utter despair, one conjecturing this, another that of Arbastus death: But all in general concluding that it was done by Allinus in revenge of his Brothers death.

Arbastus Wife likewise conceived such sorrow at this unexpected event, that with grief thereof she died. Artesia also with both of them, was ready to yield up her latest breath; and had done so, had she not been well comforted by Silvia and Adellena, who by their counsels and endeavours pacified her extremities.

This newes was soon spread into most places of the Country, but because there was no just proof of the Murtherer, little question was made thereof; and Arbastus having never a trusty friend to prosecute revenge, Floretus now took upon him to rule and govern all the estate that belonged to Arbastus, as his Brother, and soon caused him and his Lady to be worthily interred, building a sumptuous Monument in remembrance of them.

This being overpast, he came to Artesia, and finding her very weak, used many speeches to comfort her, giving such as attended her special charge to minister all things necessary to her to restore her to her perfect health; seeming to be more careful now then he was before, protesting to be unto her instead of a Father.

Silvia all this while was exceedingly grieved in mind, to see his love grown so weak, and in such danger of her life, not once forsaking her in all the time of her sickness, but continu-

ally

ally comforting her with hearty speeches and careful attendance, not so much as once departing her Chamber, but taking exceeding pains to please her, that she took great delight in her supposed Silvia, who oftentimes would steal a sweet kiss from Artesias Lips, which she permitted taking the same to proceed from a courteous mind, when Silvia did it of deep Affection, accounting the estate wherein he lived to exceed all other felicity, and his happiness incomparable, proffering many kindnesses, all which Artesia took in good part, which it may be she would have refused, had she known who Silvia had been.

Ornatus marvelled much, that in all this time she spake not of him, which he devised to urge her to do by many occasions: But these extremities had banished all remembrance of him quite out of her mind, which exceedingly troubled Ornatus, fearing this delay would some way turn to his hurt, that whereas before time he was very pleasant and merry, and oftentimes would move his Mistress to mirth, but now that humour was changed, and he became melancholly and sad: And oftentimes when he was alone he would get into a solitary place to bewail his hard fortune, which she noted and wondred at, thinking the same proceeded from being so long absent from his friends and country.

One day she found her supposed Silvia solitary alone, and coming unawares heard her utter these word: O how happy am I to love, and not to be beloved. Silvia seeing her left off, to whom Artesia said:

Why how now Silvia, are you in love? Can it be, that your mind is attainted with that venemous Serpent, that poysoneth the Senses, altereth the Complexion, and troubles the Head and Heart? Shake it off, and cast it out off your sight; for it never did good, but hath brought many to perpetual misery.

Madam, replied he, since you have overheard me, I must needs confess I am in love, which doth not any way cause

any ſuch effect in me as you ſpeak of, but I take all comfort there in my Senſes, Heart, Head, and all my parts, take exceeding delight therein. Why then, quoth Artesia, ſit you thus penſive & ſilent, as if you bewailed your being in love? I, ſaid Silvia, grieve not that I am in love, but that I am not beloved; for I have vowed to live in love for ever, and will die before I will once change my reſolution. What hard hearted man is he (replied Artesia) that knowing you love him, will not love again? Such is my condition, ſaid Silvia, that the party whom I love knows it, and yet cauſeleſly doth hate me; neither am I far abſent from my beloveds company, without whoſe preſence my life would decay. Why, is he in this houſe [illegible] love, is it poſſible you ſhould be entangled ſince you came [illegible] No, ſaid Silvia, I loved before I came hither. How [illegible] e, quoth ſhe, when you are a ſtranger, and caſt in this [illegible] Shipwrack; either you muſt needs be ſome other [illegible] e you for, or elſe theſe things are impoſſible: But [illegible] at truſt in my ſecreſie, impart your mind to me, [illegible] the beſt I can to further your love. You may do [illegible] n, ſaid Silvia, and none more than your ſelf, but I [illegible] n pardon me for revealing the ſame, before you aſ- [illegible] of one thing, which you may do without any harm to [illegible] lf, and be not offended if I aſk you. Tell me what it is [illegible] ſhe) and I will anſwer you. Then, ſaid Silvia, I would [illegible] know whether you love Ornatus. Whereupon the ſtart- [illegible] ſaying, Ah me, that name bringeth death to my heart, and [illegible] thou woundeſt me to the Soul in ſpeaking of him: Doſt thou think I have cauſe to love him, and not rather above all men to hate him; doeſt thou not ſee my Father lately murthered by him, or ſome by his appointment, and thinkeſt thou I can love ſo deadly a Foe, by who I am brought to this miſery? No, aſſure thy ſelf Silvia, according as I have juſt cauſe, I do hate and abhor him, as the greateſt enemy I have, whoſe very name affrighteth me with terrour, and if thou hadſt loved me, as I was perſwaded thou didſt, thou wouldſt not have troubled me with that ominous name; and yet for all this miſchief he

hath

hath done me, didſt not ſee how he ſued for my love, and had ſo much prevailed that my heart began to yield to his ſute, with that ſhe pulled out of her Pocket the Letter, ſaying: These Lines, the fruits of his diſſimulation, were inſtrumental Actors in the Tragedy of my Fathers death; whereupon ſhe tare the ſame in a thouſand pieces.

Silvia ſeeing the ſame, was ready to ſwound with grief, and breaking forth a heart burning ſigh, ſaid: O how is poor innocency ſuſpected; and being ready to ſay more, was diſappointed by Floretus coming, who even then entred the Garden, and finding them out, uſed many courteous ſpeeches unto them both, eſpecially comforting Arteſia, to whom he ſaid:

Dear Cousin, ſince theſe miſhaps cannot be remedied, let wiſdom now overſway your paſſionate ſorrow, and with patience remit all further grief, for theſe evils paſt cure are not to be lamented; but now commit the care of your ſafety to my truſtineſs, that will as tenderly regard your good as mine own life; therefore be of good comfort, and whatſoever you deſire ſhall be done. Whereupon ſhe yielded him thanks, and ſo they departed.

Arteſia being alone by her ſelf, could by no means forget what ſpeech ſhe had with Silvia; either thinking ſhe did diſſemble, or elſe was ſome other then ſhe ſeemed, or elſe was in love with Floretus. Then ſhe remembred her ſpeeches, ſaying, How is innocency ſuſpected, which ſhe thought ſhe utterd because of her accuſing Ornatus, which drave her into many doubtful cogitations, and troubled her Senſes exceedingly: What by reaſon of her little ſuſpect of Silviaes diſguiſe, could not judge any thing thereof.

Silvia alſo not daring to offend her, and loving her ſo dearly, that he could not endure to ſee her diſquieted, uſed no more ſpeeches concerning love, but frequenting her company, in which he moſt delighted, he accounted himſelf moſt happy to live and enjoy her ſweet preſence, being out of hope to attain her love: But he beheld that which ſhe little thought, and he moſt obſerved.

Many

Many dayes continued Silvia in this disguise, in which time Arbastus death was almost forgotten, and Floretus being drawn by Silviaes manifold vertues, began exceedingly to affect her, using such kind behaviour towards her, that she suspected that which afterwards proved true; for Floretus concealing his love, felt the flame to burn the more inwardly, and living in that loathing Tyranny, thought it better for him to manifest his love, then by hiding the same augment his torment, assuring himself he should accomplish his desire, because Silvia was a Stranger, far from Friends, and without his favour was likely to come to poverty, which he thought would be a means to draw her to like of him, besides he knew he might do what he pleased with Artesia, for that she was now onely in his custody: And upon a day, finding Silvia in the Garden alone, he came to her with a submissive behaviour, and said:

Dear Silvia, I would gladly utter a matter of importance if you would vouchsafe to hear me, and this it is fair Lady: My heart hath long time been enthralled to your beauty, the which I have refrained to utter fearing to be refused; but did you know how faithfully my heart is devoted to your service, and with what torment I have concealed the same, you would pity me; my estate is sufficient to maintain you well, though not so worthy as you deserve, you shall live with me contentedly, and have a faithful and constant friend, whom no afflictions shall alter, therefore I beseech you let me receive some hope of comfort by your gentle speeches, which will ease my troubled heart.

Silvia had much ado to abstain from smiling, to think how much she was to answer his expectation; but committing a further consideration thereof to time more convenience, gave him this answer:

Worthy Sir, my mind is unapt to entertain love, considering how far I am distant from my own Country, and how soon I may be overtaken, therefore I pray you seek not that in my hands which I will not grant, but if you please I may

live

live so quietly as since my coming I have done, I shall think my self more beholding to you for that, then for your proffered love, which I cannot yield unto. He thinking this answer of hers being so mild, was a sign she would soon yield, followed his suit more earnestly, insomuch that she plainly told him as yet she could not fancy him, having had no trial of him, telling him that she would consider further thereof, and thereupon departed.

Now he being in hope to attain that which was impossible to be had, and she hoping by this means the sooner to attain Artesiaes love: First, considering Floretus had the disposing of her, and therefore he must please him, other wise he might be might be deprived of her company. Then he began to think of Arbastus murther, assuredly believing that it was not acted by his Fathers counsel, but rather by some secret foe, and he thought it might as well be her Uncle as any other, for that he was next Heir if Artesia hindered him not, which thought took such deep root in his breast, that comparing Floretus behaviour, countenance, and little enquiry he made after the Murtherer, he plainly suspected him, which was rather by Divine Providence, then any evident proof, which made him conceive this opinion: Such inhumane murthers are never unrevealed, though never so closely committed; the Gods still revealing them.

So came it to pass with Ornatus, although he was no way privy to any such act, or conceived any probability thereof, yet he thought Floretus countenance shewed him guilty, and wished therefore to have some further conference with him to see if he could finde out the truth, whereby he thought both to discharge himself of the suspicion Artesia had of him, and shew her his innocency and constancy she might yield to love him, purposing to leave no means unattempted to try him, which he resolved so do.

Early the next morning, Floretus not unmindful of his love, which kept him from his sleep that night, never left till he had found Silvia, and coming to her with a decent and submiss

miss speeches solicited his suit, whom Silvia cunningly handled, still putting him in hope, and yet making him no promise, which set him the more on fire, being so far overgon with Affection, that he determined to hazard his life to win her love: But the more unwilling he saw her, the more eager he grew, and at last she said:

Floretus, I know no cause you hove to be so importunate, for I see in you no token of Fidelity, but once having attained your purpose, you will esteem me as lightly as easily won; besides I do not see how you can perform any such matter as you promise; for my part I have no estate, and you for ought I see as little, so by matching with you I shall bring my self to poverty and misery, and then your hot love will soon waxe cold, and then you will reject me and leave me comfortless. Floretus not suffering her to proceed any further, made this answer:

Do you not see Arbastus Wealth, will not that be sufficient? The great possessions I now enjoy by him, are enough to maintain us happily, and will afford us all hearts content. Arbastus Wealth (said Silvia) that is Artesiaes by right, then how can you possess the same and she living? Do but grant me love, said he, and I will quickly satisfie you in that, I have a means to get all into my own hands, and therefore I beseech you let no such thought trouble your mind, but be assured that in enjoying me you shall reap all content and happiness by my humble, dutiful, and constant loyalty. Do but assure me of this (quoth Silvia) and you shall know my resolution afterwards.

Artesia entring to them cut off their speeches, whose presence vexed Floretus to the heart, being scarce able to speak a word by reason of his inward cancour; for indeed he hated Artesia, because she onely debarred him from possessing his Brothers wealth, the want whereof he thought kept him from enjoying Silvia; therefore he resolved by some means to work her death, which in short time he told Silvia of by this occasion; thus:

On

One day finding her alone in a secret place of the Garden, after many speeches past between them, whereby he saw the chiefest thing that hindred him was his want of Wealth, and after that Silvia had in some sort made him a grant only to try him, he began to utter his mind freely, saying: Dear Silvia, I am so well perswaded of your vertue, and put such a confidence in your trustiness, that I will reveal to you the very depth and secresie of my heart, would you but swear to keep my counsel, for to purchase your content I have determined to put in practise a matter of secresie, which concerns my life, therefore not to be revealed.

Silvia hearing this, thought it better to swear a thousand Oaths and break them all, then by niceness to endanger the life of Artesia, which she supposed he aimed at, and promised by many protestations to keep secret what he aimed at; upon which, Floretus urged with hope to win her love, and imboldned to mischief, caring not what he did to attain his will, did say as followeth:

You see Arbastus is dead, which was one stop that kept me from enjoying great possessions, and my purpose is, so you will but vouchsafe to assist me herein, to be so rid of Artesia, and then all that belonged unto her by her Fathers death, shall be as yours to dispose of. Silviaes heart throbbed to hear his speeches, and intending to sift him to the full, said: Floretus, I am sure you spake this onely to try me, and so to entrap me, and not of any intent you have to perform the same, wherein you shall do me great wrong, and your self no good; for I do not believe you bear the least thought to do it. By the Gods (said he) it is my full intent; and for that you may be assured thereof, it was I that slew Arbastus, howsoever the matter is imputed to Allinus, and purpose likewise to be rid of Artesia; therefore make no doubt of my resolution, for I am resolved to do it. O (thought Silvia) sooner shalt thou see my heart blood, then spill one drop of hers, saying: would you have me do any thing herein? you may do it, replied he, with the more safety, and the manner thus:

Within a mile of this Caſtle, Arbaſtus hath a Banqueting houſe in his Park, where oftentimes he would for his recreation lie, whether I will perſwade my Couſin to go for a ſeaſon to take the Air, and to recreate her ſenſes dulled with grief, and none but you to keep her company and ſome two ſervants, whoſe truſtineſs I am aſſured of: This done, I will get a drink to be made, the force whereof ſhall expel life, and yet by no means be found out, which when you think convenient give unto her, and when ſhe is dead, others will think ſhe died of a Natural death; and ſo this matter may without the leaſt ſuſpition be effected, and then you ſhall be both Miſtreſs of her inheritance and mine. Silvia demanded when this ſhould be put in practife, within two dayes at fartheſt, replies he, in the mean time frequent you Arteſias company in ſuch familiar ſort as heretofore you have done, and my ſelf intends to do the like. Many other ſpeeches paſt between them at that time, but at laſt they departed.

CHAP. VII.

How *Ornatus* told *Arteſia* of *Floretus* intent: and how he diſcovered himſelf.

FLoretus being by himſelf, began to conſider how raſhly he had committed his ſecrets to Silvia, and entred into theſe meditations: Doth Silvia think that my policy exceedeth not her ſhallow capacity: For ſimple ſtranger, ſhe hath undertaken a matter of portance for me, that mean noleſs then good will to her: She for my love hath promiſed to poiſon Arteſia, and is likely that once more, to taſte the ſame ſawce, for loved ſhe me never ſo well, I will not truſt her with my life; but peradventure ſhe loveth me, and will reveal my drift to Arteſia: No, Floretus thou art deceived; ſhe is ſo far in love, that ſhe doth [illegible] my thing at my requeſt: What a mad World is

what villany can be intended, which some either for favour or reward will not execute? if I should trust her that is so easily won to such a heinous deed, might I not be accounted mad? yes, and therefore I will not trust her, but Artesia being first dispatched she shall follow.

Ornatus on the contrary, was glad that he had felt the issue of Floretus treachery, thinking also he was so far in love with him, taking him for a woman, that for his sake he sought Artesias death, which was the onely means to help him to possess her love, which he determined to give her knowledge of and discover himself, hoping that when she saw his innocency, his faithful love, and how by his means her life was preserved, she would yield him love for his good will. Whilest he was in the depth of these cogitations, he espied Artesia enter the Garden, and taking his Lute, found her seated upon a Flowry Bank, under the shade of a Myrtle Tree, and perceiving that she was heavily enclined, he sate down by her, and with his sweet melody rocked her asleep: When she had slept a good while, being exceedingly affrighted with a Dream, she started up, looking earnestly upon Silvia, saying, I prithee Silvia do not poyson me. He seeing her so affrighted, was exceedingly amazed, and she her self (not fully recovered yet) seemed to be afraid of him, till at last Silvia said: I beseech you what is that affrights you? O, said she, I dreamt thou wouldest have murthered me. Heavens forbid, quoth he, that I should attempt so heinous a deed: But would you vouchsafe to hear my Tragick report, you shall presently be rid of that doubt, for I am much tempted to commit such an horrid Act, but I esteem your life dearer then my own, and would sooner murther my self then wrong you; but because I have so fit an opportunity, I will tell you of a monstrous injury intended against you: The other day I remember you were exceedingly offended with me for naming Ornatus, for that you thought him to be the cause of Arbastus death, but both he and Artesia are innocent, and far from any such thought, for Floretus murthered him, which he told me himself. He would have

love (which another poſſeſſeth) but I ſuſpecting as much as I now find to be true, held him off with this delay, that he had not wealth to maintain me, which when I had often alledged, he told me all that belonged to your Father was his; I demanded how that could be ſo long as you lived? Swear, ſaid he, but to be ſecret, and I will tell you: with that upon my proteſtations he told me that he had murthered Arbaſtus, and meant to poyſon you, perſwading me to conſent thereto, for that he ſaid I onely could do it; whereupon (though far from my heart) I promiſed to aſſiſt him, and then he told me it ſhould be done in this manner: I will (quoth he) perſwade my Couſin to forſake the Caſtle, and ſojourn a few dayes in a houſe my Mother hath in the Park, where none but you and two other Servants, whoſe ſecreſie I nothing doubt, ſhall be with her, where I will give you ſuch a Potion as ſhall ſoon end her life, and yet not be perceived; neither can there be any doubt thereof, for that I and none elſe are left of her Kindred to find out the truth: This is the ſum of what he told me.

Arbella hearing her words, ſate like one without ſenſe a good ſpace, being ſo far overcome with grief and fear that ſhe could not ſpeak a word, but at laſt ſhe burſt forth into theſe lamentations:

Ay me, unkind and moſt unnatural Uncle, canſt thou ſpeak me ſo fair, and intend me ſo much harm? Who would have thought ſuch foul impiety ſhould be hidden under ſo fair pretext? Wilt thou man, art thou not contented with thy Brothers Tragedy, but alſo ſeeketh my untimely end? What frenzy or folly doth poſſeſs thee? How canſt thou ſuffer ſuch a hainous thought to harbour in thy Breaſt, much leſs to act it againſt him that loves thee as his life, and her that honoured thee as her friend? O Silvia, may I credit thy words, and not rather accuſe thee and excuſe him? May I think him ſo ſimple to truſt thee with his ſecrets? No, I fear this is ſome Plot invented by thee to ſome bad end; Yet I prithee pardon me, for what canſt thou get by telling me ſo, unleſs it were ſo? Or not rather have kept his counſel, and then thou mighteſt

mightest have bin my heir: And pardon I ask of thee good Ornatus, though thou art absent, for that I accused thee accessary to my Fathers death, when thou art innocent.

With that a flood of tears kept the passage of her speech, whilest Silvia said:

Artesia, yet vouchsafe to hear my counsel, which shall prevent all these evils: You may peradventure make some doubt of the truth of that which I have spoken; but I take Heaven to record, that not one word is false, for I esteem your good above all things, and your quiet above my own content: for should you die, I could not live, for by your absence I draw my breath: I dived into your Uncles counsel, not to aid him, but to prevent him, for that I knew Ornatus was no way guilty of any such Treason, but would have ventured his own life to have preserved your Fathers, whom he both loved and honoured as himself, of whom I could have told you more, but that fearing to offend you, and seeing how vehemently you accused him I durst not: His love is loyal, and therein I will pawn my life.

Silvia, replied Artesia, thou tellest me wonders; especially that thou art so privy to Ornatus thoughts, and that thou darest so boldly affirm he loves me, when perhaps thou mayst be deceived.

Most vertuous Lady, said he, were you but so privy to the thoughts of his heart as I am, you would say as much as I, and believe all that I tell you, and to put you in assurance of what I know, let me tell you gentle Lady, that I am he, who in this disguise hath sought to attain your love, for which boldness I desire you to pardon me; whereupon a Ruddy blush spread it self into Artesias cheeks, being ashamed he had been privy to so many of her actions, that she could not tell how to behold him.

I beseech you, quoth Ornatus, pity my torment, which hath urged me to this boldness, being frustrate of other means to enjoy your presence; my meaning being no other then vertuous, but resting at your merciful disposition: I desire you

to

to put assured confidence in me for preventing your Uncles intent, which you need not doubt of, for to my grief I know it to be too true.

Artesia marvelled exceedingly at the strangeness of this news, but most of all admired Ornatus love, which she could not tell how to reject knowing he deserved it, and her necessity was such, that her safety rested in his secresie; yet being unwilling to yield at that time, said: I know not by what name to call you, neither do I know whether you are Silvia or Ornatus, but if either, your words shew great token of friendship, which I fear me is not grounded in your heart, neither do I greatly care, for since my Uncle seeks my life let him take it, for I am weary of it.

Let not your gentle heart, quoth he, make any doubt that I am Ornatus, though my counterfeit disguise doth shew me other, but either grant me love, or let me die for you; otherwise that Potion that should dispatch you shall end my life, which is at your command, and all my felicity resteth in your favor, which if you will not grant, my life without the same will be but short, and the time I have to live an endless labyrinth of sorrow.

Adellena by occasion entred the Garden, and found Artesia weeping and Silvia in a heavy dump, greeving exceedingly to see her sorrow: Artesia seeing her said; Adellena, dost thou take Ornatus so much as to hazard life and credit to do him good, thou knowest that I know him to be an honest Gentleman, therefore wouldest thou keep my counsel if I should reveal a secret to thee concerning him. I will Madam, said she. Do you, quoth Artesia, know Ornatus if you see him, behold there he is. Adellena was at the first astonished at her speeches; but looking precisely upon him perceived it was he indeed, rejoycing exceedingly to see him there, to whom they declared all the intended treachery of Floretus, and presently departed into the house together.

Chap. 8.

CHAP. VIII.

How *Artesia* departed to the Lodge with *Silvia*, and from thence secretly went to *Adellenaes* house; and how *Ornatus* taken to be *Silvia*, was by *Floretus* accusation and *Artesiaes* want banished.

THe next day it so fell out, that the King with divers of his company (amongst whom was his onely Son and Heir Lenon) being in his Progress, chanced to arive at Arbastus house, thinking to have found him there, but hearing of his untimely death was very sorry, thinking as others did, that he was slain by some of Allinus Family, wherefore he did not stay there long, but departed to his Palace: Now it fortuned that Lenon had beheld Artesiaes beauty, and was with the first sight thereof exceedingly enamour'd, that after he was gon he could by no means forget her, but determin'd ere many dayes to return thither to see if he could attain her love.

The appointed time was now come that Floretus had intended to set abroach his villany, and according as before Ornatus had told Artesia, he came to her, perswading her for a season to go in the Country, which she being forewarned of consented unto, and so the next morning she with Silvia and divers others departed; and at night Floretus according to his intent, left but two Servants with her, who knew nothing of the conspiracie: When Ornatus and Artesia were alone, she before being undoubtedly assured of his loves stedfastness, did use these comfortable speeches to him:

Ornatus, whereas always before this time to unkindly I have repaied you as a foe. I now crave pardon, being sorry I have done you so much wrong, which now I will requite with kindness: I confess it was strange to me to entertain love, but now I willingly yield my self to be subject to it, and your true and faithful friend, committing my self to your custody to dayly yeers to dispose of.

Ornatus

Ornatus hearing these speeches, was ravished with a great deal of joy, and with a modest and mild behaviour embraced her in his armes, imprinting a sweet kiss upon her Coral Lips, saying:

Never was any man exalted to more happiness then I am, by being exalted with the precious jewel of your love: What rich reward have I now reapt for my cares? What Glory, Joy, or Wealth, can be compared to the richnes of your love? O heavenly Artesia, how fortunate have you made me? How have you blest me, and how full of joy have you filled me, having obtained your consent? Was ever any so unworthy, so exalted? Well, for this kindnes and love, I will persorm more then my Tongue can utter, and be more faithful then your heart can wish. Then began they to embrace each other, and solace themselves in that which true love yieldeth: He sometimes lending her a kiss, and she with interest paying two for one, for one sweet look two, and so many imbracings as are not to be rehearsed; for their hearts and hands, joyned in such firm bands of true affection, as might be, and they joyed in beholding each others presence. But these storms of Love being somewhat mitigated, they began to think of their dangerous estate, and to devise how to prevent the intended mischief. In this place they continued some two dayes, still looking to hear from her Traiterous Kinsman, who the third day, fearing to trust any with a matter of such weigh, came to bring the Potion himself, pretending he came to visit Artesia, delivering the same to Silvia, willing her the next night to give it her, which she promised him to do.

When he was gone, she came to know what News her Uncle had brought, who told her all, and shewed her the potion in a Glass, which he had ordered should be given her the next night; whereupon she began to lament and exclaim in extream sort: But he intreated her to cease such vain grief, which could not hurt him, but her self, assuring her to prevent the same; therefore, said he, depart from hence to Adellemas house, whither I will conduct you and return. This said, they departed,

departed, with little labour arriving at Adellenaes house, who was ready to receive them; and after many farewels Ornatus departed to the Lodge.

When it was Supper time, the Servants brought up provision, but he told them their Lady was not well, and therefore would eat no Meat that night; and being alone by himself he studied what excuse to make for Artesias absence when her Uncle should come, spending that night in much care, and many unquiet cogitations hindred him from his sleep.

Floretus was no sooner returned from the Lodge, but he met Prince Lenon, who came purposely to visit Artesia, who Floretus kindly saluted, marvelling much wherefore he came, to whom he said:

Sir, I came to see the fair Artesia, to whose beauty my self is enthral'd, not as regarding her wealth, but her love, therefore pray admit me to her presence.

He was so amazed to hear his speeches, that he could not tell what answer to make, or how to excuse her absence; that the Prince seeing him in such a study, continued on his speeches, saying: Floretus, be not unwilling that I should match with Artesia, for that shall no way hinder your preferment; who think peradventure the longer she liveth unmarried, the more Wealth to possess: But to rid you of that fear, be but a means to win her consent, and I vow to Heaven I will diminish not a penny of her Fathers Wealth from her, but thou shalt have it all, for it is not possessions I desire, but love, resolve me therefore.

My Lord, replied he, your offer is so bountiful, besides my duty urging me, I am ready to perform your will to the utmost of my power. I thank you, quoth he, then prithee conduct me to her without delay. My Lord, replied he, that I cannot do presently, for two dayes past the departed hence with the Strange Damzel, and they are both now at the Lodge, wherefore if you please we will go to morrow morning. Agreed, said Lenon, I accept your proffer.

When the time of rest was come, and Floretus being all alone by himself, he began to enter into these meditations: What inconveniences hast thou run thy self into Floretus? Thou hast hired one to murther Artesia in hope to get her Wealth, and made Silvia acquainted with thy proceedings, which Wealth thou mayest now attain by preserving her; besides to win her love to Lenon, shall ever find him my faithful friend. What wert thou best to do, if thou shouldest murther her, he would make enquiry of her death, and so thou wilt be undone: If not, then will Silvia be displeased, and so betray all thy Plots: The mischiefs which by thy own folly thou hast run into, are so intricate, that thou knowest not how to shun them: Were it not better to save her life, and win her love to Lenon, then to poyson her, and so die my self? If I save her life, Silvia will be discontented; what of that? then let her smart for it; and if she will not be contented with that, she shall never live to discover my intended treachery, therefore I will first try her, and finding any suspicion thereof, I will stab her my self, whose death I may easier answer then my Cousins.

The morning being come, the Prince and he rode to the Lodge, where he no sooner arrived but he met with Silvia, to whom he said: Well met Silvia, I have news of great importance to impart unto thee: Lenon, whom thou here beholdest, is Son to the King, and is deeply in love with your Lady, and hath given me full assurance of her Fathers livings, if I can win her to match with him; now I think it convenient to defer our purpose as concerning her death, and let her live, till we make trial whether she love him or no, which if we can effect, we shall be quit of so cruel a deed, enjoy her Heritage, and have an assured friend of the Prince, therefore tell me your opinion herein.

All this I like well, quoth she, but it is now too late, for I have caused her to drink off the poyson you delivered to me, and she is dead, which was of such force, that all her body rose up in Blisters, and because I knew it would betray us, I took her

her body and conveyed it into a deep Pit, where it is impossible to be found.

Floretus fearing to have his Treason now brought forth, in a monstrous rage drew his Dagger, with intent to stab her to the heart, but by chance it lighted on her left arm, who feeling the smart thereof, presently stept to him, by main force wringing the Dagger out of his hands, and with the same hit him deep in three places, that had not Lenon stept between them he had been slain.

When he had parted them, he demanded what the matter was? Floretus thinking rather to accuse, then be accused himself, and terrified with anger, said: That wicked Woman hath murthered Artesia. Silvia made no answer, until Lenon lay hold on her, demanding where Artesia was? who answered: By the inticement of that wicked man, I gave her a Drink hath poysoned her.

O thy wicked Strumpet, said Lenon, thou hast condemned thy self, and therefore worthily shall thy accused life make satisfaction for her death, whereupon he began to draw out his Sword; but Ornatus now thinking it no time to dally, least he might be murthered by them, caught hold on Lenons Sword also, having such advantage that he easily got it from him, saying: Worthy Prince, be advised, and seek not to spill my innocent blood without consideration, least thou lose thy own: Thinkest thou that I am as guilty as that Traytoress? No, be assured I am not: But if thou lovest Justice lay hands on him, for none else is guilty of her death.

By this time the Princes Servants hearing the noise, did come running in with their Swords drawn, and by their Lords command, first apprehended Floretus, and afterwards sought by violence to take Silvia; but he standing in his own defence resisted them, alleadging innocency, till Lenon bound it he were not accessary thereto, he should not suffer, but have his cause heard before the King.

Ornatus thought it better to yield by fair means, rather then by compulsion; and esteeming it less grief to be made a

prisoner then to declare where she was, yielded; being both carried to the Palace, and for that night put into several prisons.

Floretus being thus in durance, his Conscience so deeply accused him of villany, that he cursed and exclaimed against his hard fortune, and railed against himself for trusting Silvia, with extream fear of death, seeming to be altogether desperate and hopeless.

Ornatus on the other side, took that trouble patiently, as ensured for Artesias sake, fearing nothing because he knew himself innocent, and could easily acquit himself of such accusation, purposing rather to hazard the worst then discover who he was.

The next day they were brought before the King, where Floretus upon Silviaes accusation, confessed the Truth, both concerning Artesia, and how he slew Arbastus, for which he was condemned to die within two dayes. And, quoth he, to Silvia, because thou art a stranger, and by him was drawn to do the deed, I will pardon thee thy life, but adjudge thee to be banished this Country; and because none shall seek thy life, thou shalt presently be conveyed from hence.

Then he commanded she should be conveyed to the Haven presently, committing her to the custody of certain Moors, who not staying to hear what answer she would make, carried her away: to whom he would have told the truth of all, but he spake to them that understood him not, who with speed executing the Princes command, rudely hailed him aboard, and hoising sail never staid till they arrived in the Coast of Natolia, where they were commanded to leave her.

CHAP. IX.

What sorrow *Artesia* took for *Ornatus* absence; and of the Adventures befell him in *Natolia*.

BY this time Artesia began greatly to wonder that she heard not from Ornatus, which drave her into some doubt of his safety, that coming to Adellena she desired her to haste to the Lodge, and entreat him to come to her, for her heart suspected some heavy newes. Adellena immediately hasted thither, finding the Servants in great sorrow, whom she asked for Silvia? Ay me (quoth one of them) by this time she is past speaking with all, for such heavy newes hath befalln since your departure that it grieveth me to utter, and thereupon told her all that hapned.

Adellena brooking no delay, which in these affairs was dangerous, stood not to reiterate those griefs, and how contrarily every thing fell out, but with all speed returned to Artesia, who espying her coming, thought her countenance discovered some unwelcome accident, therefore hastily enquired how Ornatus fared? Adellena could not speak at present, at last she said:

Artesia, tedious laments are not now to be used, but speedy counsel how to save Ornatus, for he is carried before the King, and is accused by your Uncle to have murthered you; for coming to the Lodge with Lenon the Kings Son, who pretended great love to you and not finding you, Ornatus told Florecus he had given you the poyson; whereupon your Uncle would have slain him, but he taking his Dagger from him, would have done as much to him, had not the Prince hindred him: Then your Uncle accused him of your death, so that they were both carried before the King.

For Ornatus, said Artesia, what misery is befalln thee for my

my sake? How art thou rewarded for preserving my life, and Adellena counsel me what is herein to be done: Ornatus being amongst them a reputed stranger, having no friends to plead for him, perhaps may be put to death, chiefly because he is taken to be a Natolian; therefore if thou lovest him and me discharge him of that false accusation: Run to the Palace, find out Lenon, tell him of my safety, and request him for my sake to pity Silvia. Adellena according to her command mounted speedily, and before Sun set arrived at the Court, and finding out Lenon, said: My Lord, may vouchsafe to hear me speak; the fair Artesia whom you suppose dead, is alive and in safety at my house, who hath sent me to you in the behalf of Silvia, fearing some wrong might be done unto her, as suspecting to be guilty of her death, when she onely preserved her life.

Lenon was so amazed at her speeches, that he could not tell what to say, being exceedingly grieved for Silvia, but at last told her what his Father had done, which appalled her Senses with deadly fear. Lenon, notwithstanding it somewhat grieved him for Silvia, yet he rejoyced to hear of Artesia's safety, determining to go with Adellena to visit her, which he did, and entring where she was making exceeding lamentation, he said:

Fair Lady, I beseech you grieve not for Silvia, for no hurt is done to her, onely my Father upon her own confession hath banished her.

Artesia hearing his speeches, with very grief fell into a deadly Trance, both Lenon and Adellena having much ado to bring her to life again; and being conveyed to her Bed, when she recovered and came to her self, and saw Lenon standing by her, whose sight was most grievous unto her, she turned her head from him, shedding such abundance of tears that she loved the place whereon she lay. The Prince perceiving that she was ill pleased with his presence withdrew himself, giving Adellena this charge.

Gentlewoman (quoth he) since Artesia is in your custody,

I charge thee let her not depart from hence until thou hearest from me again, for if thou doest, thou shalt answer the same severely; but if thou wilt stand my friend, and in my behalf intreat her favour, I will prove so grateful a friend to thee, as thou shalt account thy labour well imployed.

He was no sooner gon, but Artesia uttered these lamentations:

Most accursed Wretch that I am, to be thus separated from my dearest love, whose courteous minde was the Fountain of all Vertue: How unfortunate am I by my Fathers death and my Uncles cruelty, but especially by Ornatus loss, who is unjustly banished into a strange Countrey, where he poor true and loyal Gentleman never set foot? How unhappy was he made, when he first began his love? But now most miserable; and by seeking to preserve my life hath cast away his own, and fearing to be disappointed of my love, hath quite dissevered him from my sight to hazard his person by Sea and Land: It is impossible he should ever return, being so far conveyed from his Native soil, and left into the mercilesse hands of rude people that will seek to destroy pure Innocency? No, no, I fear me I shall never be so happy as to behold him again: Well, though I do not, yet shall my love to him remain immoveable, therefore now will I arm my self to endure all perils, to live in care and continual grief for want of my dear beloved Ornatus, whose heart I know overflowes with sorrow, and peradventure misdoubteth my loyalty, having been so unkind to him before, without knowing Lenons affection, may suppose his Dignity might alter my constancy; but sooner shall Ornatus hear of my death, then that I will once falsifie my vow made to him already, to yield his right to another, were he the greatest Monarch or Potentate in the whole world, this is my resolution, and I will ever continue it.

This said, another flood of brinish tears overflowed her Eyes, and the passage of her speech was stopt by heart-piercing sighings, which in confused multitudes issued with her sweet breath,

breath, never ceasing her laments, but still bewailing her true Lovers absence; and in this sort she continued so long, that she grew extream sick, and was in great danger of death.

By this time the Prince was got to the Court, and having been with the King, got pardon for Florentus life, yet notwithstanding he always was to remain in prison. Lenon likewise having heard of Artesias sickness, refrain'd from visiting her, onely he would oftentimes repair to her Keeper to know how she did.

Now Ornatus being left in the Country of Natolia, took his misfortunes in such heavy sort, that if his hope to see his Lady again had not withheld him, he would have laid violent hands upon himself, for a season giving himself over to despair, for that he was landed in a vast and desolate place of the Countrey.

Thus careless did he continue a whole night and a day, not so much as seeking food to preserve him from famine; but in the end hunger constrained him to seek for succour. When his stomack served him he could find no meat, that with the extremity thereof, calling to remembrance his estate, he thus bewailed his sad condition:

Thou Fortune, contrary to Nature, deals with her Subjects sometime hoising them to the top of all felicity, and then with violence tumbling them down again: Was ever man more fortunate and so sudden miserable as I am? Could ever any man whatsoever attain more heavenly felicity and blyptacks then I did, by being possest of Artesia, and now again more accurst, being thus far absent from her, and wandring as I have fell into a strange Countrey ready to be famished and devoured by wilde Beasts, or that which is worse, never to see my Love again: How can any man contain himself from desperateness, being so miserable as I am? How can I withhold my hands from murthering my self, when by doing it I shall be rid out of a wretched life? What should I do? Which way shall I go? Here I am in an unfrequented place, where no humane creatures do inhabite, without food

without

without weapons, in Womans apparel, and without hope of comfort. Shall I stay here; then I shall be famished: shall I leave this place and travel on, then I shall go farther from my beloved, and meeting with some ravenous Beast may be devoured: Now being hungry I want food, and here is none, unless I will eat the Earth, Leaves of Trees, or Roots of the Grass: But I will seek my fortune being it good or evil, I care not. R N

In this desperate mood he travelled on, and by good chance found a Tree whose Boughs were full of gallant Fruit, with which he satisfied his hunger, not far from the same place taking up his Lodging.

Early the next morning he arose, first filling his Belley, and then his Lap with that pleasant Fruit, the taste whereof was like wine, that being drunk in abundance will make the head light, which made his heart merry, insomuch that he travelled on a pace: But Fortune not contented with the misery he had endured already, sent him another afflicion, as thus: He entred into a place like a Forrest, befet with many great Trees, scattered here and there, where he met with a huge wilde Bore that haunted those Desarts, who espying Ornatus with a terrible groyning bristled his hairs, running towards him with open mouth. Now Ornatus began to run with all speed from the Bore, but he making the more speed he almost had overtaken him, when one of the Apples he had about him, presently fell down, and the Bore espying the same, stayed his haste to take it up, whereby Ornatus had gotten some little ground of him, and seeing him affect the Fruit so much, cast down another Apple, after which the Bore ran greedily, devouring the same. He was glad of this shift, and still cast down one Apple and then another, that in the end he had almost thrown away all, and notwithstanding that, feared to be destroyed: But the Bore feeling his Belly full, and his hunger allayed, left off his eager pursuit, and followed him more carelessly, whom he still fed with Apples till his store lasted, that in the end the Bore fell down and stept.

Oratus seeing this, having no other then a Knife about him, with the same approached the Boze, and thrusting it up to the handle, the Boze after some struggling died; whereupon he rejoyced at this happy escape; But before he could determine what to do, fortune once again shewed her mutability; for when he had parted the Bozes head from his body, and with the same was ready to depart, there passed by a Knight in Green Armour gallantly mounted, who espying a Woman (as he thought) with the Bozes head, rode towards her, and said: Woman, Where hadst then that Head? Prithee deliver it to me. I will not, said Oratus, unless I knew more cause then yet I do. The Knight hearing that short answer, alighted and said: I will shew no other reason but that I will have it; with that he began to strive for the same, but he having more mind to the Sword then the Head, caught hold thereof, and drew it out, which when he had gotten, he said: [illegible] Knight, now will I keep the Bozes head in despight of thee; with that he thrust at him, and contrary to his thought, wounded him so deep, that he left him for dead; [illegible] that he had not done that deed, but not knowing how [illegible] he might have used him, let pass all further [illegible] the Womans apparel, put on the Mans [illegible] Spoile, and with the Bozes Head rode [illegible] the same way the Knight came, and within a little space [illegible] that conducted him to a goodly Town, [illegible] Turret [illegible] long before he came to the same: [illegible] what to do, thinking whether he had [illegible] to enter the Town or not, on which he mused a great [illegible]

[illegible] he continued in these meditations, he came near [illegible] not fully resolved what to do, where he was soon [illegible] by some of the people, who seeing the Bozes head, came [illegible] towards him, saying, Welcome home most brave [illegible], welcome.

By this he understood the Knights name, and that he went [illegible] purpose to stay the Boze, whom they took him to be, and that

he must of necessity be known, which drave him into an exceeding care what excuse to make. Then presently he beheld a Troop of beautiful Damzels, with the sound of sweet Musick coming towards him, amongst whom one as chief and more beautiful then the rest, was Crowned with a Garland of Flowers, holding another in her hand, who all at once applauded his victory, dancing before him until he came into the midst of the Town, where sate the chief Magistrates, where the Damzel that was crowned thus spake unto him:

Sir Alprinus, your conquest hath released the inhabitants of care, extolled thy fame, preserved thy life, and won me for thy love; you have well performed the task you undertook, and according to your desert I am come to crown you with these Flowers.

When he had heard these speeches, he was resolved to try the end of this Adventure; so alighting, he said down the Bores head upon a Table that stood before the Ancients, with humble and comely behaviour kissing the Damzels hand, who set the wreath of flowers upon his Head, and taking him by the hand brought him before the Ancients; to whom one of them stood up and said: Worthy Gentleman, whereas thou wert before by us condemned to die as deserving it, for this thy valiant deed we freely pardon thee, and quit thee of all Trespasses thou haste formerly committed.

Then taking the Damzel by the hand, said: Lucida, according to thy desire; his desert, I yield thee his Wife. And Gentleman (quoth he) take her as thine own, as freely as she was by birth adopted mine, and after my death be thou inheriter of my Lands.

To all this Ornatus gave a free consent, and the night now approaching, he with Lucida went to her Fathers house, and there was a great feast provided there, from which Ornatus thus excused himself:

Lucida, I know your love to be infallible, and your constancy above all Women that I know, and that Alprinus is so far indebted unto you, as that he shall never be able to co-

compence this inestimable favour of your love, which hath preserved my life from destruction: But notwithstanding your love, Alprinus his debt is so great as can no way be gratified, I request one further favour at your hands, wherein my chiefest felicity dependeth, yea my life, your love, and perpetual good, which I fear to utter, least you should misconstrue the same, there being no other thing to hinder the content Alprinus seeketh, but only your favourable consent to banish all mistrust of my Faith.

Lucida marvelled at his speeches, indeed loving him so well that she would have spilt her own blood for his sake, saying: You have no need to make doubt Alprinus of my consent whatsoever it be; know you not how faithful I have been, though you slew my own dear Brother, and that I esteemed your love beyond his life: And when you should have died for the deed, obtained this of my Father, and the rest of the Ancients hands, What slaying the Boze that had destroyed many people, should save your own life and win me to be your Bride, and notwithstanding all this, do you make a question whether I will yield consent to any thing that shall be for your good? O Alprinus, if your love were as constant as mine, if you intended to continue my Love for ever, if your heart felt so many a sting of love as mine, you would not make such a doubt of my Loyalty, of my Truth, true Love, and Constancy, for you know whatsoever you should ask I will grant, whatsoever you should request I will perform, and wherein soever a Lover may show infallible Tokens of truth, I will do as much as any: But if you will not believe me without an Oath, I swear by my Love, my unspotted Virginity, and all the Gods, I will consent, agree, perform, or do any thing, nor be offended with any thing, be the suit never so unwelcome so it be for Alprinus good, nor any thing unperformed you shall require.

Ornatus hearing with what constancy her speeches proceeded from her, and how grievously she conceived it, that any doubt should be made of her Loyalty, thought most certainly that

that he might put his life into her hands, and therefore having already studied a device, said:

It ill agreeth with my Nature to dissemble, and hardly could I have been drawn thereto, but only a desire to preserve love; for know worthy Lucida, that I am not Alprinus, but one that for his sake hath undertaken this; the truth whereof if thou will hear with patience I will declare, and tell all the whole Adventure.

Yesterday as I travelled through the Forrest, or Desert, I met Alprinus sore wounded, and flying from the Boar, that pursued him with celerity, which when I beheld (to relieve him from death) I set upon the Boar, and by good fortune slew him, which when he beheld he told me the cause of his coming thither, which when I heard pitying his condition, I bid him take the Boars head, and withal helpt him to mount up his Steed, but his wounds not suffering him to ride, I was in a great fear least he should die: Then presently we beheld an ancient Hermit coming towards, that lived in a Cave in the same Woods, and undertook to cure his wounds, being glad to hear of the Wild Boars death, to whose Cell I conveyed Alprinus, at whose request I have performed that which you see, and had undertaken to hazard my life to discharge him of death, and win the assured possession of your love: Now I most humbly entreat you for his sake to conceal what I am that I be not known, and so both disappoint your self of his love, and him of safety: Onely this, devise a means to excuse me from their Feast, which I trust you will do for Alprinus sake, and then we may have time to study for our farther content.

Lucidaes Love made her believe that all he said was true, therefore said:

Sir, I trust there is no cause why I should mistrust you, and therefore relying upon the Truth of that which you have told, I will tell my Father you are wounded, and desire excuse to go to your Chamber then to the Feast, who I know will

will deny me nothing. This said, she went to her Father, and so prevailed that he was contented she should have the keeping of him, whom she took to a Chamber, suffering none to come at him but a Maid whom she reposed confidence in: Afterwards Lucida came to Ornatus to know how she might see Alprinus, being most careful of his health; concluding the next morning that he should go to the Forrest to Alprinus, and she would come to him by his directions, which they both agreed to.

Early the next morning Ornatus armed himself, and as Lucida had instructed him, took his leave of her Father, who took him to be Alprinus.

Being alone by himself, having the wide World to travel in, but never a friend to go to, void of fear, but full of care, he studied whither to direct his journey, sometimes his Conscience telling him of disloyal dealing with Lucida: Then he thought with himself it was not unlawful for him to dissemble with her to save his life, and though he had slain Alprinus, it was but in his own defence.

Amongst all these, this thought seemed to acquit him of dishonour, that Fortune and the Destinies had by that onely ordained him to escape. Whilest he rode on in these deep Meditations, he met with an ancient Hermit, who coming to him, said: Discourteous Gentleman, how camest thou by that Armour, and yet I need not ask thee, for I know thou slowest that worthy Man Alprinus, which I beheld to my grief. Father, said Ornatus, if thou didst behold the same, I am sure thou canst witness I did it against my will, and in my own defence, for whose death I am as sorry as thy self, and would as willingly have done any thing to preserve the same as any man living.

Will you then, said the Hermit, do this for him, vouchsafe to come and speak with him, who is in reasonable good estate at my Cell.

I pray the Gods, replied he, thy words be true; for if he be living it will revive my heart with joy, desiring nothing more

more then to see him. He is alive, said the Hermit, and if you will go with me, I will bring you to him presently.

Ornatus being come to the Cell, found Alprinus very weak by reason of his wound, to whom Ornatus declared all that hapned between him and Lucida; which added great comfort to his heart, that he thought himself of sufficient strength to meet her.

In the mean time they continued in the Hermits Cave, Alprinus in great comfort, and Ornatus in great care for the absence of his Lady, breathing forth many a deep sigh, and uttering many a sad lamentation, fearing Lenons love would be accepted by reason of his Dignity.

The next day they both went out together to meet Lucida, whom they met at the entrance into the Forrest, and after many kind salutations past between the two Lovers, they altogether departed to the Town to Lucidaes Fathers house, who that morning was departed to a Haven about business of importance.

Ornatus was kindly used by them, remaining there until Alprinus had wedded Lucida, thinking it then high time for him to depart; and on a time finding Alprinus alone, who had shewed sufficient tokens of his friendship, he declared unto him his love to Artesia, requesting his help for his passage into Phrigia.

Alprinus very attentively listned to the whole discourse, telling him none could effect it so well as Lucidaes Father, because he was a Merchant, and did Trastique thither, saying he should soon accomplish his desire; where we will leave him for a time attending some Ships departure, to speak of the Lady Artesia.

Chapter

CHAP. X.

How *Lenon* caused *Artesia* by violence to be carried from *Adellenaes* house to the Green Fortress; and of the miseries she endured there: How she was rescued from thence by *Ornatus* Father, and from him taken by Pirates; and how *Allinus*, accused by *Lenon* for her death, was imprisoned; and what afterwards befel.

Rtesia having by Adellenaes means and care somewhat recovered her health, Lenon began to visit her again, being unable to endure his hot and burning Love, thinking her sickness proceeded from fear of Floretus, not for want of Ornatus, and finding an occasion, saluted her thus:

Fair Virgin, my heart is so far enthralled to your beauty, and my affections so much admire your virtues, that I am constrained to tell you I love you, and therefore humbly sue to you for favour, prostrating my self at your feet to become your Captive and everlasting Vassel, beseeching you to honour me with the Treasure of your Love, and I shall think my self happier then all the world besides: Your unkind Uncles cruelty you need not fear, nor other misfortune, neither have you any Parents to over rule you in electing your Choice, then vouchsafe to accept me your Servant, and yield love for love.

My Lord, replied she, my thanks for your good will, but I know not how to accept your love, being so far from knowing what it is, that if I should but dream thereof, my heart would be out of quiet; besides, many cares continually attend the same, and my mean estate so far unworthy thereof, with other innumerable discontents and cares, that I should make my self subject unto, that I had rather a thousand times remain in the estate I am now in; therefore I entreat you to settle your love else where, more agreeable to your estate; for I shall

think

think my self most fortunate if I never fall into that Labyrinth of disquiet, but will during my life labour to keep my self free from loves bands. Lenon would not take this for an answer, but with many other speeches continued his suit, whom Artesia still put out of hope, so that he departed exceedingly discontented, leaving her no less disquieted in thoughts, how to avoid his love.

In this sort did he daily visit her, still growing more importunate: And upon a certain time this conference past between them.

Artesia, said he, how long shall I sue and be frustrated of my hopes, by your unkindness? Is your heart hardned against me? Or am I so ill conditioned that you cannot conceive well of me? Or is it possible you bare so hateful a conceit of love as you make shew of? Then may I accuse mine Eyes that hath betraid my Senses, in making them your Captive: Then may I justly think my woe began when I first began to love: Fairest be not so cruel as to punish me with this high disdain.

My Lord, said she, I seek not your discontent, for at the first motion I told you my mind, which shall never alter, neither is my heart hardned against you more then others, for I am determined not to love, then since you know my mind, it would be wisdome in you to shake it off, which is but a Toy and an idle Fancy that is bred by Vanity; and do not seek to make love grow without a root, for in my heart it shall never be rooted. Then, quoth he, you are led by Obstinacy, not by Reason; for that you are subject to love you cannot deny, then why not me before another, considering my love is most faithful? withal, being most worthy, why should I not be first accepted?

Artesia was weary of his speeches, having her constant thoughts bent onely upon Ornatus, therefore to rid him from her she said: It is in vain to use many words: I am none of those that will at the first seem coy and afterwards yield; but be satisfied with this, that I cannot love.

Fair Damzel, how can I be satisfied with that unreasonable answer, when my life depends on your consent, which your denial will take? Then give me leave to say, I cannot be satisfied; but being extreamely refused, I must grow perforce to be as unreasonable in my requests: Consider of what Dignity I might advance you to by making you my Wife: Consider you not the Pleasures, Joyes, and Contents you may enjoy with me, and how faithfully I love you, and with what humility I seek your love; and yet notwithstanding you remain obdurate. My power is great, that as I sue, I might command, and by Authority compel you to consent: then be not so over-conceited, as so obstinately to reject your own good; and think, that if my love were not constant, I would use forcible means, which might soon alter your mind.

Suppose (said she) I were so foolish as you term me, yet being born free I am not to be made bound by constraint; and were you the greatest King in the World, you could not rule the heart, though you might by injustice punish the body: for it is not Kingdoms Wealth nor cruelty, can turn hatred to love, but it may soon turn love to hatred; but by your speeches I may partly know your thoughts, and the Lips utter what the heart intendeth: Do with me what you will, I cannot love, neither will I love you, were you Monarch of all the World.

Leon was so griev'd to hear her speeches, that he was ready to tear the hair from his head, presently departing saying, Farewel hard hearted Lady.

She was glad he was gone, presently telling Adellena all that had past between them, and how peremptorily she had answered his importunate suit, telling her that since for her sake Ornatus was banished, she should never love any but he, and preserve her life in hope to see him again, and the first knowledge of his death should be the end of her life, both she and Adellena thinking that the Prince would never return again to prosecute his suit.

But he being come to the Palace, betook himself to his Chamber, raving more like a mad man then a passionate lover, sometimes swearing, curling, and stamping, yielding so much to his frenzy, that in the end he swore he would attain her love though he hazarded his Life, Honour, and good Name, and raging in this sort up and down his Chamber, he espied an old Gentlewoman named Flera pass by his Window, whom he called to and said, Flera, because I have assured confidence in thy fidelity, and purpose to reward thee liberally, I crave thy counsel, and with it thy consent to be secret in keeping my counsel, and diligent in doing my desires. The old Hag making an evil fashioned low curtesie, said: My dear Prince be it to do you good I will hazard my life, and rather be torn in a thousand pieces, then reveal what you do vouchsafe to tell me.

Then, quoth he, counsel me which way I should begin to win a fair Ladies love. Marry my Lord, replied she, give her knowledge thereof, and then with fair speeches woe her; if that will not prevail, give her Gold, and no doubt but that will catch her.

No, no, replied he, these are of no force, I have made my love known to her by humble suits, submiss behaviours, and by all kind of courteous means entreated her consent, yet for all that she remains obstinate; she is rich, and therefore Gold with her is of no force, she is Fair, Vertuous, Noble, and Chaste, then what Engine haste thou to undermine that Chastity?

Speaks enough, quoth she, peradventure she is ruled by others counsel, which may prevail more then your suit; but if I might have access unto her, I would soon alter her mind, for being young she is apt to love.

Doest thou think, said he, thou couldest win her, were thou her Keeper. I my Lord, quoth she. Then shalt thou be her Keeper; see that thou art to morrow at my Fathers Castle in the Green Forrest, where to morrow by night this Damsel shall be, whose name is Arcelia, Daughter unto Arbe-

stus lately dead; use her kindly, let her want nothing, nor be not in any wise known that thou knowest me, nor that the Castle belongs to my Father, nor speak not of Love in any case; use her in this sort until I speak with thee, for thou alone shalt have her custody.

She being gone about her business, he found out two of his trustiest Servants, to whom he imparted his mind, willing them the next morning to go with speed to Adellenaes house, and either by foul or fair means to take Artesia from thence, and carry her unto the great Fortress in the great Forrest, where they should find an old Gentlewoman, in whose custody they should leave her, and themselves remain there to provide all things necessary till his coming.

Early the next morning the two Servants according to his command went thither, where they found Artesia, whom they spake fair at first, but afterwards told her she must go, if not willingly, by constraint. Then she began to burst into tears, weeping and lamenting exceedingly, upon her knees intreating them not to carry her by violence from thence, but if they would needs, that they would take Adellena with them: But all was in vain, for they constrained her to mount behind one of them, and away they rode in great haste. This heavy parting was so sudden, that Artesia could not bid Adellena adieu but with tears, nor Adellena speak a word for grief, their senses being so confounded with care, that their hearts was ready to burst therewith. Artesia thought it was Lenons doing, and therefore sorrowed the more, not that he used her unkindly, but that he loved her, not fearing his cruelty, but his Lust, not fearing what he could do by hatred, but fearing his Love would make him seek her dishonour.

Being come to the Fortress, and committed to the custody of Flera, the old Gentlewoman began to speak her fair, and use her kindly; but her very words and countenance betrayed her guilty Conscience, to whom Artesia would not speak a word, least she should give her occasion to prate, where that night she continued in great sorrow.

The next day Lenon came thither, asking Flera how she fared, who told him that she would not speak, eat, nor sleep, but fared like one mad and senseless. But let her alone, quoth he, and you shall see this fit will soon be over, the extremity whereof being once past, I will try my skil with her.

Lenon giving order to have all things necessary provided, departed. Dinner time being come, and meat set before Artesia, she refused to eat: likewise Supper time being come, she determined to do the like, which Flera perceiving said:

Fair Gentlewoman, to behold your outward appearance, would make one judge your mind harboured many divers vertues: but I comparing your actions with your apparent shew, suppose that you are either mad or careless: this behaviour, to seem dumb, to refuse sustenance, and to refrain from sleep, are instances of folly, not of wisdome. What if you speak, what if you did eat or take rest, should you be ever the worse? Or refraining, can that do you good, or banish grief, and not rather make your estate worse? Do you think to prevent any thing by doing your self harm? Be sound child; eat thy meat, and preserve thy life; for living thou mayest attain thy desires, but dying, thou art past hope: With that she departed smiling.

Artesia hearing her speeches, began to consider indeed, what folly it was to refuse her meat: and for fear to shorten her life by discompering her self, which might be the means to further Lenons intent; whom she knew would seek her life, if he could not win her love, she presently left off such desperate behaviour, and well weighed consideration, attended the event of the worst misfortune: and from that time, did both eat her meat, and did all that she could to comfort her self still living in good hope of Ornatus return.

Some few dayes after Lenon came to the Fortress again, inquiring of Flera how Artesia fared. Well, quoth she, but you willed me to conceal that it was your doing to bring her hither, and some body else hath told her thereof, for she knoweth the truth, as well as your self, or I: and therefore I

would

would wish you to give her a visit, and after that let me alone to perswade her.

Lenon was ruled by the old woman, and came where Artesia was, saluting her: but she disdaining to look on him, or hear him speak, withdrew her self from his presence: wherewith he departed, willing Flora to do that which she had undertaken, who finding her as she thought in a fit humour began to discourse with her, and amongst her speeches she intermingled love.

Artesia hearing her a while, perceived her drift, therefore made her this reply: Old iniquity, I know whereto your talk tendeth; thinkest thou that I will ever harbour a good thought of him that hath used me thus? no, I will sooner tear my heart out: Thou needest not tell me, that he hath intreated thee to speak for him, for I know too well both his and thy intent, which shall nothing prevail; therefore do not speak to me, for I will neither hear thee nor answer thee, but hate him, thee, and thy counsel, and remain so constant in doing so, that a thousand deaths shall not alter me: Is it Love that hath made him by violence carry me from my friends, make me a Prisoner, and which is worse commit me to such a devillish Dog as thy self? If that be his love, let him turn it into hatred, and remain so for ever, for in so doing he shall much better please me.

Oftentimes the Hag would have replied, but Artesia would not suffer her, that she began to wax angry, and in the end to plain fary, that running to Artesia she caught hold on her, and began to tear her Garments from her body, sometimes scratching her so with her poysonous Nails, that the blood followed, and Artesia began to smart exceedingly.

Prove Minks, quoth she, thinkest thou to bear it away with out-facing me? No, do not think that I will leave thee thus, for now thou shalt repent that ever thou camest here, and before I go from hence I will have my will of thee.

Then drawing forth her Knife, she again caught fast hold on her and swore, That unless she would promise to use Le-

non

men kindly when he came, she would cut her Throat, which drave Artesia into such fear, that she was glad to entreat her, and speak fair, promising to condescend to any thing that agreed with her Honour.

Stand not upon these nice termes with me (replied she) but here swear to yield to love him, for so thou may'st long delay him, and still frustrate his joyful expectation, whom thou art not worthy to touch, much less to bear such a presuming mind as thou doest in scorn of his love; therefore yield to that which I request, or think not to live: Canst thou bestow thy love better then on so honourable a Prince? Canst thou attain more Dignity, reap more Content, or enjoy more Quiet with any, then with him? Do not deny me then, for I will not be so answered.

Artesia trembling then with fear, to satisfie her made this answer: I am contented to be ruled by Lenon, whose meaning I know is honourable; therefore I pray do not offer me this outrage, but suffer me to live in quiet till his coming hither; if this will not satisfie you, then do the worst you can, for Death is more welcome to me then Life in these extremities.

Well, said she, I will try you, but if you flatter beware of what will ensue, for I am resolved what to do. Artesia was glad she had satisfied her, though it were with words which she never intended to perform.

Adellena seeing how suddenly Artesia was taken from her, caused one of her Servants to follow them privily to the Green Fortress, who returning told her what he had seen. Then Adellena began to study how to release her from thence with all speed hasting to Allinus house, where being arrived, she declared all that she knew concerning Ornatus, and how Lenon had carried Artesia by violence into the Green Fortress. Allinus being glad to hear that Ornatus was alive, promised to release Artesia from thence, causing five of his Servants to go with him thither, disguising themselves, not to be known, and knocking, the servants little suspecting such an ambush,

or

or intent, opened the Gate, when presently they rushed in and sam found out Artesia, whom Allinus told who he was, and to what intent he came: She being glad thereof, willingly yielded to go with him, which the old Woman perceiving, made such an outcry that all the place rung thereof. One of Allinus Servants seeing she would not be pacified, drew out his sword and ran her through, and so with a yelling cry she gave up the Ghost.

Then presently Allinus departed with her, intending to carry her to his own house, to keep her there unknown until he could hear of his Son: And remembring that the two Servants were fled, and would no doubt satisfie their Master what was done, would not go back the same way he came, though the readiest, then he thought he should meet them, but went a more secret way, thinking by that means to pass unseen, and entring into the Plains where Cattle fed, he espied a company coming towards them, whom he supposed to be the Prince (which in reason he could not think, but that fear perswaded him thereto.) The company likewise espying of them, who were certain Pyrates that were wandred from their Ships to steal Cattle, marvelled what they should be that were so late abroad, and being ready for any mischief, set upon them.

Allinus thinking it had been Lenon, would neither yield or speak, fearing he should descry them, but resisted the Pyrates, who being used to such meetings, soon slew two of his Servants, giving himself many grievous wounds, enforcing him to yield, who taking from him all that was good, and constraining Artesia to go with them, hasted to their Ships, and having gotten her aboard to prevent the worst, hoised Sail and launched into the Deep.

Then was Allinus left in most miserable estate, with all speed hasting to his house. Lenons Servants likewise were by that time it was Midnight gotten to the Palace, calling their Lord out of his Bed to certifie him what had happned: who presently rose, mounting himself, and with a sufficient company

company rode to the Fortress, where entring they found Flera slain, and all else dead.

Then he began to muse who should be that doer, and what they should be that had carried away Artesia: By this time it was day light, and Lenon rested in exceeding vexation to be so dispossest of his beautiful Lady, commanding his men to post in companies several wayes, if it were possible to finde those that had done the deed, whilest he himself remained at the Castle in great lamentation.

His Servants had not rod far, but by the light of the day which discovereth things done in darkness, they found Allinus two Servants, whose dead bodies they carried back to the Green Fortress. Lenon seeing them, he conceived that Allinus was a party in this action, and that he had taken away Artesia to destroy her: To prevent which mischief (as he thought then or never to be done) he presently rode to the Court, and humbly upon his knee entreated his Father to grant him licence with a sufficient power to relieve Artesia from Allinus, who intended to murther her, declaring how he himself found her in Adellenies boate, and how that he had placed her in the Green Fortress to defend her from the malice of Allinus and other spiteful enemies, the being left Fatherless, and how that Night Allinus had taken her from thence by Treason, and intended no less then her ruine. The King hearing his Sons speeches, granted his request.

Then presently three hundred stout and able men armed themselves, and rode with all the speed that might be after the Prince to Allinus Castle, into which they violently and rudely entred.

Lenon presently laid hands on Allinus, whom he found sore wounded, asking him for Artesia, who thinking that some of his Servants had certified him what had been done, sentit the truth of all, both of his intent, and how she was relieved from him, but by whom he knew not, and how at that time he had two of his Servants slain.

Lenon giving no credit to what he said, never left till he

searches the whole Castle throughout, but not finding her, accused Allinus that he her murthered her, commanding his men to binde him, and carry him as a Traytor to the Court, who being come before the King, confest the truth as before he had done, saying that he never sought Artesiaes death, but her safety: Yet notwithstanding the King was so overruled by his Sons accusations that he committed him to Prison, his Goods and Lands were seized upon as a Traytor, his Lady turned out of doors, and all manner of cruelty exercised upon his Servants and Kinsfolks, and command given that none should relieve them.

Allinus being in Prison laden with Irons and hardly used, endured his own affliction patiently, but grieved exceedingly to hear that his Servants were constrained to disguise themselves and live in unknown places, especially to hear how his Lady was compelled to seek out a Kinswoman of her Mothers that lived in the Country, of whom she was entertained, living a poor life, far differing from her former, which affliction she endured patiently.

Thus was Allinus house defaced, his Goods and Lands seized upon, himself imprisoned, his Wife in poor estate, his Servants driven to wander from place, ready often to perish for want of succour, and all his Dignity turned to misery onely by Lenons malice, which was so inveterate that he oftentimes sought his death.

Chap. 12.

CHAP. XL.

How *Ornatus* got Shipping into *Phrigia*: How *Allinus* was set at liberty; and how the Pirates cast Lotts who should enjoy *Artesia*.

All this while Ornatus remained in the Country of Natolia with Alprianus and Lucida, in great grief for want of a means to depart into Phrigia, to see what was become of his dear Lady Artesia: But being a long time frustrated, by reason none of the Ships that were at Sea came home, he began to despair, thinking that Artesia supposing him dead, might wed Lenon; which grief, and many other doubtful thoughts oppressed his heart with such passion, that he began to wax sick, afterwards falling into an exceeding Fever, which held him for the space of three Moneths in great extremity, and had not Lucida been careful of him, he had there died.

During which time of his sickness, certain Phrigian Ships waved on the Coast of Natolia, some fourteen miles distant from the Town where Ornatus was. of which he had intelligence by certain Pagors belonging to Lucidaes Father, the which revived his spirits with joy, that within few dayes he recovered his former health, which much reioyced Alprianus and Lucida, whose hearts were linked unto him in bands of unseparable love and friendship, who like wise dealt so friendly for him, that they attained Warrant for his passage, and furnished him with all kind of necessaries and Coyn to bear his charges.

Lucida entreated her Father to agree with the Phrigian Merchants for his convoy, for that himself would not be discovered, disguising himself in the habit of a Pilgrim, who all pass without examination. The time of his departure being come, he took his leave of Lucida, who took his departure with

such exceeding sorrow, that abundance of tears stopt the passage of her speech: Alphinus likewise with many courteous words bad him farewel, and wished his prosperous success. Thus departed he the confines of Natolia, where he was in a short space so well beloved and kindly used, that had not his love to Artesia and hope to find her in health constrained him, he was well contented to have spent the tearm of his life in that place.

The Phrigian Merchants had not sailed many dayes, but they arrived in a Haven some ten miles distant from the Court, whither Ornatus determined to travel; and having taken his leave of the Mariners and paid them their due, furnished with all things fit for his disguise he took his journey, and the first night lodged at a Village near his Fathers Castle, the custom of which place he well knew, and therefore framed his behaviour according: And being set at Supper amongst other Guests that lodged in the house with him, the host, named Milo, suddenly sighed, which one of them noting demanded what inward grief drave him thereto. Sir, quoth he, if you have not heard the news, I will tell you so much as I know, which I wish I had never known: Within few dayes there dwelt an ancient Knight hereby, named Allinus, exceedingly well beloved of all men, who is lately fain to great misery, the occasion whereof was this.

Then did he declare the whole manner of all that had happened to Allinus, how Artesia was taken from him, but by who none knew, himself in Prison, his goods confiscated, and his Wife and Servants turned out of doors, with command that none should succour them.

Ornatus heart was so pinched with this newes, that he was ready to fall under the Table, which old Milo and the rest noted, perceiving such a change of countenance in him, that they all deemed him to be exceeding sick, but he fearing to discover himself, told them it was but ordinary thing with him to be so troubled.

But being unable to mitigate the passion, he arose from the

Table

Table, and went to his Chamber, where being alone he began to meditate the depth of these mischances, imputing the original thereof to arise from himself, that he entered into these complaints.

My misfortunes are without compare, and I more miserable then any wretch living: By my evil destinies Artesia was first left in misery, and afterwards imprisoned and now surprized by those that intend her ruine and dishonour: My Father imprisoned, my Mother banished, and all his Lands, Livings, Friends, and Servants taken from him, and he subject to Lenons mercy, who is merciless, cruel, deceitful, and malicious: Onely by my folly are these mischances befaln? Can there be any more wretched then my self? Hath not my Father cause to wish that he had never begotten me, and my Mother that she had never born me? Hath not Artesia cause to accuse me, hate me, and forsake me, when for my sake by my folly and want of wisdom she is brought to so many miseries? What shall I do? Or what remedy shall I seek when all things are past recovery? Whom may I blame but my self? Is there any that is interessed in the cause of these woes but my self? Lenon, Lenon, as well as my self hath procured these evils: His affection to Artesia hath caused my banishment, my Parents woe, and her loss: To travel in her search and leave my Father in Prison, the one will be in vain because I know not where she is convey'd, and the other dangerous to his safety, for assuredly Lenon will now seek his death: And in these and such like complaints he spent most part of that night.

Early the next morning coming out of his Chamber, he heard a great tumult in the Village, the occasion whereof was this: Some of Allinus Tenants hearing how unjustly Lenon sought his overthrow, assembled together with intent to entreat the King for his release, that presently there was 300 met together. The Common People, and such as were Idle persons, and ready to attempt, misconceiving them, and bearing a mind desirous of liberty (which they thought

they

they were restrained from by certain strict Lawes the King had made) gathered unto them, that contrary to their expectation their was a multitude: The intent of the whole Assembly being asked, they answered, That they meant to deliver Allinus, amongst whom Ornatus in his disguise thrust himself, using many perswasions to urge them forwards, that they were ready to run confusedly to the Court, not regarding danger or displeasure of the King.

One of Allinus friends named Tharsus, standing up among the rest, craved audience, to whom they all listned, whilest he said as followeth.

I perceive your intent is to release Allinus, wherein you shall shew your love to him, and do a deed worthy to be Rewarded, for that he hath not in the least deserved to have such injustice ministred unto him; therefore be wise in this enterprize, and consider against whom you bear Armes, against a Warring and Tyrannical King, who may punish this Fact with death, for we undertake to destroy those Lawes which by him and his Council were Enacted: But follow my advice, and I will set you down a course whereby you shall attain your desire and be void of danger: First, let us all unanimously repair to the Court, and Petition his Majesty for his enlargement and restoration of estate; if he will not yield to that, then that his Cause may be tried by the Peers of the Realm, and if he deny both, then resolve to venture your best blood in his rescue.

The multitude hearing Tharsus, in sign of consent, generally cried, A Tharsus, A Tharsus; Tharsus shall be our Captain.

Then presently every one with such Weapons as they had, hasten to the Court, and coming together would not seem to enter by force, but with a full consent yielded to Tharsus directions, who desired one of the Guard to tell his Majesty That there was a number of his Subjects gathered together, with no intent of evil, but onely to crave a boon at his Highness hands. The King being certified thereof, was much troubled

troubled in his mind to know what the thing should be they would demand, and being perſwaded by his Son, would not go out himſelf, but ſent a Knight to demand their requeſt; to whom Tharſus declared the cauſe of his coming and what they demanded. The King being certified thereof, being exceedingly enraged, bad the Knight return this anſew: That he was not to be controuled by his Subjects, therefore would not fulfil the leaſt of their demands, commanding them immediately to depart every man to their ſeveral habitations, leaſt he puniſhed their preſumption with death. The Meſſenger had no ſooner ended his diſcourſe but preſently the unruly multitude began to ruſh in at the Court Gates, ſome carelеſſly ruinating whatſoever came next hand, others breaking down Windowes, ſome aſſailing ſuch as reſiſted them, and every one bent to do miſchief.

The King fearing the Peoples unruly Rebellion would turn to ſome greater miſchief then could ſuddenly be prevented, and might alſo endanger his perſon, not knowing who had inſtigated them thereto, with the Queen and Lenon fled, which when Tharſus knew, calling to the multitude, he willed them not in any wiſe to deſtroy the Kings houſe, nor attempt any thing elſe to diſpleaſe his Majeſty, for that the King was departed, and he had ſet Allinus at liberty: But notwithſtanding ſome bent onely to enrich themſelves, ſpoiled the Kings Treaſure, and utterly defaced the Court: By this time the night drew nigh, and every one began to withdraw themſelves.

Allinus ſeeing what exceeding miſchief this attempt had bred, which was contrary to his thoughts; yet he thought it not beſt to truſt to the Kings mercy, though he was never ſo innocent, for notwithſtanding that he would ſuppoſe it done by his procurement; therefore after Tharſus had willed the multitude to depart ſo ſecretly as they came, every one to his houſe to prevent further dangers, and ſave their lives by keeping themſelves unknown, he and Tharſus diſguiſed themſelves, and travelled towards Armenia.

Ornatus

Ornatus was by and beheld all this, glad of his Fathers escape, not purposing at all to discover himself until he had found Artesia, in whose search he meant presently to travel; but such confused thoughts whether to direct his steps, did so overwhelm his conceits, that he rested like one metamorphosed, not knowing whether he should seek her by Sea or Land, by Sea he thought his labour would be in vain, and if he did offer to seek her at Land, perhaps she might be conveyed to forreign Countries.

At last remembring that he had heard Milo say, that she was rescued from Allinus in the Desart where Cattle fed, he determined to travel thither, though he had but little hope to find her there; and being come thither, sometimes bewailing her absence, accusing his hard fortune, breathing forth most bitter sighs in remembrance of her loss, and renewing the remembrance of their love, he spent some three dayes in that place, uttering his sorrowes to the Trees and Birds, for in that place there was none else to hear him; where for a time we will leave him.

The Pyrates having, as is before said, taken Artesia from Allinus, and with her such Wealth as they could find about them, having withal furnished themselves with the spoil of such Cattle as fed in those places, returned to their Ship, and with haste hoised Sail.

The night being now past, one that was chief amongst the rest, named Luprates, went down to view Artesia, having as yet not seen her beauty by reason of the night, but now beholding her excellent beauty, said:

Fair Lady, be not disquieted because you are made Captive to such as delight in spoil, for though our mindes are bent to all uncivility, yet to your self no wrong shall be offered, such vertue hath your beauty imprinted in my heart; and whereas heretofore without mercy I and the rest of my consorts, have not regarded the plaints, distress, nor what wrong we have offered either to Lady or Damsel, yet towards your self my heart is altered and my meaning honestly bent, that I

assure

assure you not onely of quiet, and to be void of all wrong by us to be done, but also wherein soever I may work your will, quiet, ease, or desire, I will most willingly imploy my uttermost endeavours.

Artesia looking earnestly upon him, being endued with an exceeding wit, and thinking it best to speak him fair that used her so kindly, said:

Sir, I know not how to mitigate my grief when it encreaseth, for how can I be void of care, unless I should grow altogether careless, being onely subject to woe, neither is there any so unfortunate as my self, having endured so many afflictions and crosses, that I know not how to assure my self of any quiet; then give me leave to continue my endless plaints, and do not blame me of impatiency, or think I suspect your speeches, or distrust your fidelity, if in some sort I continue my sorrows; for I have so long continued in them, as I can better away with it then mirth, for joy to me is a stranger; yet notwithstanding my heart will harbour some quiet, if by your courtesie I may rest in security, and by your means be sheltered from wrong.

By this time they were arrived at their place of harbour, which was between the hollow of two Rocks, or rather Rockie Islands, where their ship lay safe from Weather, and so far under their shadow that it could not be seen; themselves conveying thither such wealth as they from time to time got, in hollow Caves of great largeness, where was all things necessary; and having fastned the ship, the rest of Luprates fellows called him up, who came and brought Artesia into the Cave, where being entred, she was surprized with fear of ever getting from thence.

Some of the roughter sort liking Artesia, began their rude behaviour towards her, but Luprates stepping unto them, uttered these speeches: My Masters, thus long have I lived a Captain amongst you, regarding your good as much as mine own, and have had but an equal share with you of such prizes as we have taken, and rather the least part: Now onely in

respect of my faith and fidelity, I request to have this Damzel as my prize, the rest of the Wealthy take you, in doing which you shall bind me unto you for ever.

One of the rest liking Artesias beauty as well as he, and of a rude mind, disdaining that he alone should have her in possession, said: Captain, all which you say we confess to be true, neither hath our care been any less then yours, therefore there is no reason why you should claim any peculiar Privilledge above any of us; besides, you know we made a Law, and bound our selves to perform the same by Oath, That not any of us should enjoy any thing without the general consent of all; then perform these conditions, and let her belong to us all, or to some of the thriftest of us, and in so doing, none of us shall have any wrong.

Thus they began to contend about Artesia, every one desirous to possess her, that all at last were ready to fall out in a mutany, till at length they cast Lots for her, and she fell to Luprates, who was very careful of her.

Thus for a time the strife was ended: At length their dismals began to waste, and they thought it high time to seek after more, determing to fetch in some as they had done formerly; but then Luprates began to take care into whose custody he should commit Artesia, least in his absence they should do her wrong: Amongst the rest, he chose out one whom he conceived fittest, and to him he committed her, by whose means she rested void of all ordinance, though not void of care, that continually tormented her, fearing never to see Ornatus again, or to be released from that place of bondage.

Chap. 14.

CHAP. XII.

How *Ornatus* found *Artesia* and preserved her life; and how she was taken from him again by *Lenon*; and what afterwards befel them.

The night being come, Luprates with the rest of his fellowes went into the Plains to steal Cattle, and by hap lighted upon the place where Ornatus haunted, being directed to him by the sound of his lamentations. Luprates demanded what he was? I am (quoth he) a most miserable creature, by misfortune driven to all extremity. Then, replied he, thou art for our company, whereupon they departed, conducting him thither.

Ornatus heart presently began to misdoubt, that they were the very same that had taken Artesia from Allinus, which caused him presently to study how to have them apprehended; and remembring that he had heard many complain that their Cattle were often stole, he supposed them they to be. Whereupon that with all the haste he could he ran to the next Village, and calling the Townsmen, told them what he had seen, who presently issued out, and with such Weapons as came next to hand, followed the Pyrates, and soon found them, setting on them, and immediately took two of them, but the rest fled, and soon attained to harbour.

Early the next morning the Pyrates were conveyed to the Court, who being come before the King, confest the manner of their life, and where they lived. Lenon presently supposed also that they were the very same that had taken Artesia from Allinus, that demanding it of them, they told him there was a very beautiful Lady in the Cave, saying her name was Artesia. Then Lenon without delay, strongly guarded them to the

next Haven, and there got shipping, steering his course by the Pyrates directions to find out their Fort.

Ornatus after he had raised the people, secretly followed the Pyrates into the place where their Ship lay, and among the rest entred the same, who by reason of their haste and exceeding fear regarded him not, thrusting himself onely into that danger to see whether Artesia were in their custody, not reckoning how his life might be endangered thereby: But the Pyrates by Luprates directions hasted to the Fort, from thence taking Artesia into the Ship, not daring to stay there, for that they knew some of their fellowes were taken, who might by compulsion be constrain'd to reveal the place of their abode.

Ornatus no sooner espied Artesia but he knew her, and his heart leapt within him for joy to see that happy sight, but he durst not speak to her, nor once settle his Eyes upon her to behold her, for fear of being suspected.

Luprates espying him, marvelled how he came among them, asking him who he was, and what he made there? I am sir a poor Pilgrim, that against my will by some of this company was constrained to come aboard. Luprates believing he said true, made no further question, but with hast sailed from Phrigia, conveying Artesia into his own Cabbin, using many speeches to comfort her.

They had not sailed many hours, but a contrary Wind began to arise, and the Heavens were darkned with thick Vapours, and such a mighty Tempest arose, that the Ship was by violence driven back, their main Mast broken and thrown over board, and all in danger of destruction, had not the Land been near, for the Ship driven by violence of the Weather, ran aground and split in sunder, the Pyrates with great hazard of their lives escaping drowning. Luprates nor none of them once regarding Artesia: But Ornatus seeing in what peril she was caught both on her, and getting on a Plank being very skilful in swimming, got her to Land, and preserved her from drowning.

He was no sooner past danger, but Luprates would have taken her from him; but Ornatus seeing none but himself there, told him since he had forsaken her in extremity, he was not worthy of her, and therefore should not have her. Villain (replied the Pyrate) yield her me with quiet, or thy life shall not detain her; with that Ornatus caught hold on a board, which he cleft in sunder with his foot, and with the same gave his adversary so sudden and deadly a wound, that the blood issued out at the place till he died. By this time the storm was quite overpast, and he seeing the Lady he lov'd so weak and feeble, led her by the arm unto a pleasant Banck, where the Suns bright beams had full power to dry her garments.

She seeing how civily and tenderly the stranger regarded her, and with what pains he had preserved her, when all had forsaken her, leaving her to the mercy of the Waves, being willing to shew that she was grateful, said:

Sir, the pains you have taken, and friendship you have shewed to me, deserve more thanks and recompence then I am able to give; therefore I desire you to think that if I were able I would requite the same: but my misfortunes are so exceeding, that they withhold me from being what I would; onely thanks is the small requital I can yield in token of a grateful mind, being by your means at more quiet then many dayes I have been, though more disquieted then would judge, but now I rely upon your vertues with hope thereby to be preserved.

Fair Lady, quoth Ornatus, my life shall be spent in your defence; neither will I part from you until I have brought you to the place which you desire, requesting you to make no doubt of my loyalty; I suppose your name is Artesia, because in my Travels I have met a Gentleman of this Country named Ornatus, of whom I learned the truth of many of your misfortunes, who I assure you is in good health. O happy tidings quoth she, is Ornatus still living and in health? I pray her where?

So he had scarce ended these words, but Ornatus espied a Ship even come on shore where theirs was cast away, and most of the men landed, which was the Ship wherein Lenon was, who beheld the other Ship cast away, and the storm being ceased arrived there; from whom Ornatus knew not how to hide himself, nor did Artesia dream of Lenons being in it, but thought it likewise to be some ship that by violence of the storm was driven to land there.

Presently the men began to spread themselves every way and some of them soon espied Artesia, giving Lenon knowledge thereof, who immediately came towards her, kindly saluting her, but she being exceedingly dismaid with his sight, whom she most mortally hated, for very grief burst into tears, which flowed abundantly from her Eys.

The Prince marvelling hereat, little thinking how much she hated him, and how unwelcome he was, rather expecting thanks for his pains then reproof, said: My dear Artesia be not now discomforted since there is no further cause of care, I have most diligently laboured to release you from grief ever since Allinus by treason conveyed you from my custody, taking your absence in great headiness, for that it pinched my heart to think you should fall into such distress; but now that all these misfortunes are past I beseech you go with me unto the Court, where I will labour to procure your content.

Discourteous Prince, quoth she, none but your self is the cause of my woe, whose sight torments me more then all the afflictions I ever yet endured: Allinus indeed carried me indeed from the Green Fortress, not by Treason but to shelter me from dishonour, which you did intend, otherwise you would not have suffered me to endure such misery by my Bellishaperes: Can I think you intended my good, when you would by force restrain me of my liberty, and force me to that I could not like? Had you left me in Adellenaes house, then I had not fallen into such misery as I have long endured, nor had Allinus for his vertue have been brought to poverty, beholding before my professed enemy, seeing my misery, it is manifest

his

his heart, that he pitied me and sought my liberty, and since by cruelty, not by justice, you have sought his overthrow; then I beseech you leave me here, for I had rather endure the hazard of my misfortune, then live to be tormented with your importunancy.

Lenon was so amazed to hear her unkind reply, little thinking he had been so much out of her favour, that he could not tell what to say; sometimes thinking to leave her there and utterly to forsake her, but that thought was soon extinct by his Affection, or earnest desire he had to enjoy her, and once again he said: Why Artesia do you regard my good will no more, then for my pains to yield me rebukes, and for my love disdain? That I caused you to be carried from Adellenaes house, was for that being there you were subject to many misfortunes: And if I imprisoned Allimus, it was for that I supposed him your Enemy, and feared he would have done you wrong; so that whatsoever I did with intent of good, you repay me with dislike, and convert all my doings to the worst meaning, wherein you shew your self too cruel, that will not yield me the least favour for my constant love: Dear Lady be not so hard hearted. Yet notwithstanding his fair promises, vowes, and protestations, she would not yield to go with him, but desired rather that he would leave her there. Lenon entreated her if not for his sake, yet to go for her own safety; whereupon he commanded his Servants to place her in a Litter, and when she perceived she must needs go, she called to Ornatus saying: Good Palmer go along with me, for that the kindness you have shewed in preserving my life, I may yield you some recompence: And, quoth she to Lenon, I request nothing of you for my own self, but for this strange Pilgrim, who caught me out of the Water and saved my life, and do not for his good will to me, use him as you did my dear Silvia, whom you banished because she preserved my life from my unkind Uncle: with that she wept extreamly. Lenon asked Ornatus what he was, I am, qd. he, a Pilgrim, who

was forced to come aboord the Pyrates ship, and (amongst the rest) was ready to perish, but that by the divine providence, I was ordained to preserve that vertuous Gentlewomans life. For that very déed (quoth Lenon) I will reward you most liberally: therefore go along with us. And so they all together departed to the Court.

Lenon presently caused Artesia to be lodged in a most sumwtuous pallace in the Court, appointing divers, Damzels to attend her, thinking by that means to win her to consent to love him: but all proved vain, his care was cast away, his cost to little effect, and his kindness unregarded. For Artesia was so constant to Ornatus, that she hated Lenon: for her heart was totally imployed to wish his good and Lenons ill: For she determined not to love him, though she was assured of Ornatus death. Thus she spent her time in continual care and sadness, shewing no signe of joy, nor shadow of comfort, but even as one that regarded no rest or took felicity in any thing, that Lenon both admired the same, and laboured by many means to alter that humour: But the more he endeavoured to please her, the more she was displeased, and discontented at his kindness, then any thing else. In this sort she continued many days, without the least shew of alteration.

Ornatus all this while remaining in the Court, making the cause of his stay to receive Lenons promised reward; whereas indéed he stayed to sée what would become of Artesia or by what means to get her from thence. To effect which, he saw no possible means, nor could in many dayes come to sée Artesia, which filled his heart with grief; onely comforting himself with remembring her constant loyaltie. And one day, being by himself alone, he entred into these cogitations.

Ornatus, thou hast remained many dayes in this place, kept from thy love, and sought no means to set thy heart at rest, or set her at libertie. Dost thou make no more account of her love, then to attempt nothing to atain the same? Or are thy spirits of no more courage, that they will do nothing:

thy

by wit so shallow that thou canst devise no stratagem, or thy mind so cowardly, that thou darest not revenge the wrong Lenon hath done thee? What though he be a Prince and Ruler of this Land? is not both he and his Father hated for Usurpation? Hath he not unjustly sought the ruine of thy Friends? Can Artesia think that either valour or vertue resteth in thee, when she shall hear how near thou art to her foe, and darest not touch him? Will she not esteem thee a Coward, and unworthy to enjoy her love? nay, when she knows this, will she not alter her love? Why shouldst thou not seek thy own content? Thou art every way as good as he born, though he now bears rule in the Land: I have heard my Father often say, that his Father was but a Captain in the last Kings reign, till Treason like, he murthered his Soveraign and attained the Title of the Crown? Then revive thy Spirits, seem not to be dismaied with any danger, fear not misfortune, but seek to release thy love, and venture thy life therefor. For living thus thou maiest be deprived of her, for Lenon by foul or fair means will overcome her, and then thou maist repent this delay; the King is now sick, and if he die Lenon will reign, who then will do what he pleaseth, then take an opportunity before it be lost.

Having ended this meditation, he began to study how to accomplish his desire, which he found very difficult; immediately whereupon the Prince entred the Court, before whom he drew so opposite that he could not chuse but see him, remembring how earnestly Artesia had entreated him on the Pilgrims behalf, he thought that he might be a means to win her love for him, that calling him to him he said: Pilgrim blame me not for forgetting my promise made to thee, which I have not neglected for want of good will, but by reason of the extream cares that daily torment me, onely procured by her unkindness; but if thou wilt undertake in my behalf to solicite her to yield my humble suit, I will promote thee to high Dignity; therefore I pray thee give consent to follow my counsel herein.

Ornatus was very willing to be imployed in this business, which fell out according to his hearts desire, and therefore made this answer: My noble Lord, for that I perceive your intent is vertuous, I will be ready to follow your directions, and do you any service I can; wherein I know not whether I shall prove fortunate or no, but I assure you to deal very effectually with her in that which I shall undertake. Lenon was as glad as he, that he had yielded to promise that which he thought never to perform, and therefore gave command presently, that none but the Pilgrim should have her in their custody. Artesia marvelled that her Keepers were changed, misdoubting some intent of hard usage; but when she saw she was committed to the Pilgrim, her heart was somewhat comforted.

CHAP. XIII.

How *Ornatus* having the custody of *Artesia*, discovered himself: How *Allinus* and *Tharsus* arrived in *Armenia*, and got the King to send Ambassadors into *Phrigia*.

As soon as Ornatus was entred the chamber, he espied Artesia sitting in a dark corner bewailing her misfortune, her golden tresses hanging carelesly down, leaning her arm upon a Chair, and her cheek upon the back of her hand: But when he beheld her sitting in this discomfortable sort, his heart was ready to melt with remorse, that breathing forth a bitter sigh, he said:

Vertuous Lady, I beseech you pardon my boldness in presuming to interrupt your quiet: The Prince hath appointed me to be your attendant, therefore I beseech you notwithstanding I am his substitute, command me in any business that [illegible] and I shall most willingly employ my uttermost endeavours to do you good. Then raising her self from off the ground,

ground, she said: Pilgrim, I thank you for your kind proffer, and am glad you are my Keeper for two causes, one for that I think your vertues will not suffer to see me injured, the other, for that I would hear out your discourse of my dear friend Ornatus, which I was hindred from by Lenons sudden finding me.

Lady, said he, you shall be assured of the one, and hear more of the other, if first you will vouchsafe without offence to hear my speech, and suffer me to execute the charge Lenon hath given me. What is it, quoth Artesia, I will not be offended? The Prince, replied he, hath made his love known to me, and with what constancy it is grounded, commanding and entreating me in his behalf to become an humble suiter unto you; he telleth me that still you use him ungently, without cause, reason, or consideration, therefore I desire you because he is so constant a Prince, and vertuously given, yield to his love, or give me satisfaction why you cannot condiscend to his request, his love being unfeigned.

Pilgrim, quoth she, for that my mind perswadeth me you in wisdom will conceive of reason, and will be faithful to conceal that which I shall disclose, I answer you thus: First, admit Lenon did love me, yet by his usage I find the contrary, I cannot fancy him, for that I have already plighted my faith to another more worthy then he, which is that worthy and deserving Gentleman Ornatus, who likewise equalleth me in affection, and therefore I should dishonour my name, break my faith, and reap perpetual infamy, if I should shew my self so unconstant: These I think are reasons sufficient to a reasonable creature.

Your reasons, quoth he, are great, and the cause such as can no way be violated; but now you are subject to his mercy, and he may inforce you to that which you are most unwilling to have done; then what remedy have you but rather to yield, then enduce such extremity as he may use. When, quoth she, I can preserve my life no longer from his Lust, Death shall rid me from his power, which I will execute upon my self, rather

ther then condiscend to yield him so much an outward shew of favour, therefore I pray you use no more words tending to the breach of my Faith and sufferance of his love; for knew you but how hateful his name is to me, and how odious his doting love is in my hearing, you would desist, for I am resolved never to love none but Ornatus.

Hearing these words he was so ravished, that he had much ado to refrain from discovering himself, uttering these speeches: How happy is that Gentleman by attaining the love of so constant and vertuous a Lady? What comfort may these pleasing words bring to his heart? His reward now is greater then his pain, his pleasure more then ever his sorrow could, and his gains a thousand times beyond his loss: Why should I then conceal the truth of his safety from you, whereupon he said: Behold dear Lady your faithful friend, with that discovering himself she perfectly knew him, being amazed at his sight, both saluting each other with great joy, insomuch that they were loath to part, but fear to be espied compelled them, taking such exceeding comfort in each others presence, as is not to be expressed; withal using many kindnesses which had past between them formerly, he sometimes embracing her, and she again with a sweet kiss welcoming him, being so kind and hearty, as would ask a skilful Pen to describe: But at last having somewhat recreated themselves, and with modest joy banished some part of their care, thought it time now how to study to procure their future happiness, least the same might again be crost by the Prince, who by that expected to hear from his Messenger, therefore Ornatus said thus:

My most dear and kind Arteta, by whose love my life is saved, I am not able to express the joy my heart feeleth at this our happy meeting, being very much grieved to hear of the sorrowes you have undergon through my absence, but to prevent them hereafter, I will study how to convey you out of my enemies custody, who will leave no means unaccomplished to attain his desire; therefore in this extremity, if you will be

be contented to esteem me as your friend, and follow my directions I will labour to purchase your freedom.

Dearest friend, said she, I have dedicated my self wholly to your disposition, and make my self onely yours, both in heart, body, and mind, that whatsoever you would with your self, you do to me, and whatsoever pleaseth you cannot displease me, I esteem my self as your self, committing all things to your wisdom, and rest to be ruled, counselled, and ordered by you in whatsoever you shall think convenient, and will do any thing you shall counsel me unto, both for our escape and otherwise, accounting my bliss yours, and yours mine, and your content my quiet; as for the Princes love, it is hateful to me and injurious to you, therefore work what means you will to free me and revenge your self, for my mind is ready to yield to any thing you shall approve of.

I most humbly thank you, quoth he, and first I think it convenient to procure a good liking with him, which to accomplish, at his next coming shew more favour to him then heretofore you have done, which when he perceiveth, he will not onely credit me, but be hereafter ruled by me, and in all things follow my counsel: This performed on your part, refer the same to me.

My dearest Joy, quoth she, I will do this at thy request, otherwise I would never have consented to it, and shall pray the Gods to deliver us from his power, that we may enjoy each others love: These speeches ended, they parted with a sweet kiss, the sighing and he weeping.

Not long after Lenon came to Ornatus, to know whether he had done as he promised in his behalf, whereupon he made this answer;

My Lord, I have used many perswasions to her, which in some sort hath prevailed, but I doubt not hereafter by further conference to win her full consent, if your Honour will be pleased to be directed by me, and not with rashness mar all: therefore go in now unto her, but not too rashly, and so it may be not altered.

Lenon

Lenon then embraced him in his armes, saying: Thou bringest me tidings of exceeding comfort, for which I will reward thee most bountifully, with that he gave him a Purse of Gold, which he received, thinking that should be a meane to further him, and hinder the giver.

Lenon entring into Artesias Chamber, uttered many kind speeches unto her, whom she used with more kindness then ever she had done before, which filled his heart with exceeding joy, and made him according to the Pilgrims directions, more careful of his behaviour, least by any boldness he might offend her, and so having past some small time with her he departed.

Now was Ornatus studying how to release Artesia, to further which it thus fell out.

Allinus and Tharsus, as is before said, gat shipping for Armenia, and arived there with safety: First dreating their course to the Kings Palace, where Allinus was most honourably entertained, being somewhat allied to him, to whom he declared the cause of his exile, and the injury done to him by Thoas King of Phrigia.

Turbulus King of Armenia, comforted him all that he could, biding him request any thing at his hands and he would grant it him.

Allinus alleadging many things to perswade Turbulus to aide thereto, requested him to send Ambassadors to Phrigia to request performance of certain Articles, or else to give open defiance for War, the Articles were these:

That *Allinus* should be restored to his Lands, and the Damage and lost he had sustained should be repaid to the full: That his Wife should be recalled from banishment, and that he should yield up *Artesia* to *Allinus*, if she would be in his custody, and that the King and *Lenon* should be sworn to perform all this.

Turbulus was easily won, and therefore presently sent four

four of his Noblemen as Ambassadors, to request the performance of certain conditions; who when they were landed in Phrigia, and news thereof was brought to the Court, Thæon himself being somewhat sickly, sent Lenon to meet them and give them entertainment, who was loath to depart from his Ladies presence, but assuring himself of the Pilgrims faith, he committed her wholly to his custody.

The King Don having met the Armenian Ambassadours brought them to the Palace, where they were honourably entertained; and having delivered their Ambassage, Thæon told them they should receive answer within two dayes. Lenon hearing the Articles, counselled his Father not to yield to performe any such conditions, but rather to send defiance: for (quoth he) your Majesty is as absolute a King of Phrigia as he is of Armenia; then what dishonour were it for you to be at his command, and seem to be afraid of his threats: To bind your self to this, were to become his subject. The King being over-ruled by his perswasion, returned the Ambassadors this answer:

That he meant not to performe the least of those Articles they demanded, nor feared the threats of war, for that he was able to deal with a mightier Foe then he; using many other words, and some of reproach: so that the Armenians denounced open War and departed presently.

Chap. 29.

CHAP. XIV.

How *Ornatus* staying too late in *Artesias* Chamber, was accused by *Lenons* servants, whom he slew. How *Allinus* with a Band of Armenians landed in Phrygia: And how *Ornatus* was imprisoned.

THæon knew that the King of Armenia would performe his word, and therefore gave Lenon charge to muster up men throughout the whole Land: committing the chief charge of the Army, and ordering of those affairs, unto him: who more hardy, bold then wise, undertook all, and in short space had gathered an exceeding great Army, and furnished certain Ships, to meet with the Armenians by Sea: if it might be possible, to vanquish them before they should land.

These troubles filled the Commons hearts with grief, and their mouths with murmurings; for they understanding that the King of Armenia did offer War to Phrygia, in the behalf of Allinus that was generally beloved; there was few of those that were prest to those Wars, but came unwillingly, or rather by constraint, being more ready to turn their sword points against Thæon, then against Allinus.

Ornatus likewise hearing of those Wars, by his wisdom knew out the opinion of the multitude, and with what unwillingness they came to the Wars: And being in some fear ashared thereof, he came to the Camp, and amongst all the rest of his familiars, espied Phylastes, who always loved him most dearly, him he knew to be of a most faithful and constant resolution in performing his promise, and was by Lenon appointed one of the chiefest Leaders. Ornatus finding him somewhat remote from the Camp, came to him, and after salutation, said: Sir Phylastes I am sent unto you by a great friend of yours, named Ornatus, who trusting so much in your vertues, that he is willing to put his life in to your hands, which you shall hazard in denying him one

small

small favour, which with safety you may grant: first therefore I request but your promise for your warrant, and then I will declare what I have in charge.

My friend (quoth Phylastes) thou tellest me news of wonder, when thou sayest thou comest from Ornatus, whom I fear is long since dead, but if thou knowest the contrary, and canst resolve me thereof, I promise and swear to recompense whatsoever thou shalt demand: for I am sure Ornatus knoweth that I love him, nor maketh any doubt thereof: which [illegible], he injureth that love and friendship which hath past between us.

Then know Sir (quoth he) Ornatus is not dead but in safety, and I am that Ornatus, who notwithstanding my speech, make no doubt of your love.

Phylastes beholding his countenance, knew him well, and for joy caught him in his arms: My dear friend Ornatus (quoth he) I am glad of your safety, and let me be accursed, if I do not any thing you shall command.

I thank you (quoth Ornatus.) To enter into the tedious discourse of our afflictions, would take up too much time, but in few words, I will tell you all, I loved Artesia long, but found no hope nor meanes to attain my love; which made me disguise my self into womans apparel, naming my self Silvia, and was unfortunately entertained by Arbalius, whose death I found to be acted by Floretus: who falling in love with me, told me, for my sake he would poyson Artesia at the Lodge, whither he conveyed her. I fearing to have her taken from me, and having won her love, told her his intent, and conveyed her to Adellenaes house: then Floretus and Lenon came thither, demanding her of me: whom I told I had poysoned according to his counsel: then was I carried before the King, and banished into Natolia: from whence returning in this disguise, I obtained the custody of Artesia, the manner I will tell you at more leisure. Now my dear Phylastes, my desire is to change my place with you, you to have the custody of Artesia in my Palmers weeds, and I to

march in the field in your Armour: which if you grant, you shall binde me unto you for ever.

Phylastes yielded to his request: and so for that time they parted, appointing to meet the next day.

Ornatus being come to Artesia, told her where he had been, and what he intended; which made Artesia sad, disswading him from his purpose in this sort: My dear Love, what need you venture your person in the dangers that are incident to War? Will you leave me here in doubt, and not rather stay with me to my comfort? There are [illegible] besides, and too many in the field, and Phylastes is able to execute his own place. Then I beseech you, do not leave me in discomfort: for how can I be voyd of care, when I shall think you are amongst so many enemies ready to be slaughtered? My dear Love (quoth he) that which I will do, shall be without any hazard at all, but shall procure both our contents: Then I beseech you remit this care for my safety, for I will preserve my self from danger for your sake. Besides Phylastes vertue is such, as you need non once so much as think an iss of him, who I know would venture his life for my sake. Besides, my honour urgeth me, revenge of the injuries done to your self and me, and my Fathers safety, are reasons sufficient to perswade your consent: besides many other causes alike forcible, too tedious to recite. Then I beseech you deny me not; for when it shall be known that my Father was in arms in the field, and I in this place regardless to aid him, it will turn to my great dishonor; and those that before did esteem well of me, will then begin to hate me: then let not your doubt and true love to me hinder my determination, for on mine honour, your safety and my Fathers life dependeth.

Artesia seeing she could by no means disswade him, thought not to let him depart so suddenly; but clasping her tender arms about his neck, a thousand times kist his lips, whilest with abundance of tears she bedewed his manly cheeks. Ornatus took great sorrow at her heaviness, and delight at her

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embracing, that the contrarieties of his conceits were exceeding: pleasure it self being more pleasant intermingled with care, and cure a pleasure to be enjoyed with such delight, Artesia was loth to let Ornatus depart that night, for that she feared he would be in danger the next day, and he as unwilling to leave her in sorrow: she on the one side solacing her self in his company, he by her kindness making him to forget to depart, that before they were aware night was come, and well spent, and Ornatus then bethinking himself, thought it was too late to depart. And Artesia hearing him make a motion to be gone, desired him to stay; and yet my dear Ornatus (quoth she) do not endanger your self for my sake, for should Lenons servants finde you here, it might redound to your great disquiet. Ornatus likewise well considering the inconvenience, took his leave of her, and left her flooding abundance of tears, being gone, found the servants awake, and watching his coming out, one of them saying: Pilgrim, what maketh thee so lawey as to court my Masters love? Is this a fit time of the night to be in her Chamber? My Lord shall understand your behaviour, and what familiarity there is betwixt you: we take you to be some counterfeit, else would not such behaviour pass betwixt you as we have beheld; therefore here shall you stay, until we give him notice of your doings and disloyalty: with that they lockt fast the door, not suffering him to go out or in. Ornatus by that perceiv'd that they had seen the kindness betwixt him and Artesia, which he knew if Lenon should understand, he would finde out what he was: these thoughts troubled his heart exceedingly, that he was assured, unless he could be rid of them, there was no meanes to escape death, if Lenon should know him. With these studies he sate a good while silent, till he perceived them to incline to sleep, and casting his eye aside, espied a Will hanging upon the wall, to which he stole secretly, and taking hold of the same, he drew towards them, entring into these meditations. And shall I now commit murther, and endanger my soul by so heinous a

sin? What will Artesia say when she hears thou art so bloudily bent, and that thou art so hard hearted as to shed thine own Countreymens bloud? Ornatus, be well advised before thou do this deed, and bethink of some other means to avoid the danger thou art readie to fall into. Seek other meanes Ornatus; yea, but what other meanes hast thou? None at all. Dost thou not see how they have betrayed thee, and made thee prisoner? Why, what needest thou make a question to save thy self, and by their deaths preserve thine own life, which if thou permittest them to live will be in jeopardy, but they being removed, thou art secure. With that, lifting up his arms with more then wonted force, he smote the one on the head, and beat out his brains, wherewith the other began to awake; but in his awaking, he stroke him so full on the breast, that the Bill pierc'd his heart, and he lay sprawling in his gore. This done, Ornatus found a Vault, and into the same he conveyed their dead bodies, purposing never to reveal what he had done: then returning, he bethought himself of the Keyes, which he had thrown into the Vault with their bodies, devising how to get out without suspicion of the deed he had done; but he was enforced to take the Bill, and by main force wring asunder the Locks.

His minde being exceedingly affrighted with these cares, he entred into Artesias Chamber, to see whether he had disquieted her with the noise, or no: but he found in bed, and fast asleep, with the light still burning by her bed side, her breast uncovered down to her waste, and nothing to shadow her from his perfect view, but the single sheet, that lay carelessly cast over her tender bodie; her arms cast to either side of the bed, and her head leaning on the side, with so sweet an aspect, as would have ravished a thousand beholders.

Ornatus heart was so ravished to behold this sweet sight, that the remembrance thereof, had banished all remembrance of his troubles past, and affected his heart with incomparable delight, that he stood like one amazed to behold her sweet perfections, and to take a surfetting view of those her perfections

so amiably laid forth. Artesia suddenly awaking, blusht to see him so nigh, yet therewith more comforted then dismayed, she caught the cloaths and covered her self, whilest he folding his hand in hers, desired pardon for his boldness: but she viewing him well, beheld his pale and ghastly countenance, which drave her into fear, and raising her self upright in her bed, caught him in her arms, asking what ailed him to look so pale. My dear Artesia (quoth he) since I parted from you, I have endured great danger, and past through a hell of calamities which now I fear not; with that he let his head fall into her sweet bosom, and there made the period of his speech, feeling her tender heart pant with the motions of her troubled spirit: In which place he rested it a good while, whilest she with her saft hand curled his hair, and with sweet kisses molified his lips; using many other familiarities and sweet favours, proceeding from the depth of kinde love; wherewith Ornatus was so ravished, that he not onely took heavenly comfort therein, but also desired a a further content and possession of her love, which he never before asked, nor thought she would grant; but being heartned by the assurance of her love, he used a more familiar behaviour, which she permitted. But at last, growing more bold then she thought convenient for her modesty to permit, with a kinde and lovely behaviour, she both blamed and hindered him: But the motions of affection so far prevailed with them both, that he desired, and she inwardly yielded, though outwardly she refused. But his behaviour, her own love, the present occasion, so fit opportunity, their hearts unity, and other sweet enticements so far prevailed, that she yielded up her unspotted body, and pure chastity to his possession; giving up the interest of her heart, love, and body, to him that persued the possession of those riches with earnestness. Sometimes blushing, sometimes shrieking, and yet yielding; denying, and yet granting, willing and unwilling: yet at last, she gave that she could not retail, and let him possess her spotless virginity. Which being

past, her heart panted with the motion, and she felt her sences sad; a little repenting, yet not altogether sorry; sighing for sadness, and yet not sad at all.

Whilest he bathed himself in that Haven of bliss, passing the rest of that night in such unspeakable pleasure, as cannot be deciphered. Early the next morning he arose, taking his farewel with such a sweet adue, leaving Artesia sad for sorrow, and lamenting his absence; but yet with earnest and hearty prayers invocating his happie success, bathing her heart in lake-warm tears; thinking she had been too prodigal of her favours to him, and yet esteeming him worthy of a thousand times greater gift, if she had it in her possession; with repentance rejoycing, though deeming her self metamorphosed, and other then she was wont to be; being glad she had no company to converse withall, least her guilt should make her blush, and so bewray her fault. And when Phœbus began to lighten the Chamber with his splendor, she hid her self within the bed, as if the day light had accused her of that she had done in the dark.

Ornatus being come to the Camp, found out Phylastes, and brought him to Artesiaes Lodging, by the way instructing him how to order his business when Lenon should come. Where being entred, Phylastes having saluted Artesia, and a while converst about their affairs, they changed their habits: Ornatus with many a sorrowful sigh, taking his leave of her, while his heart bled warm drops of blood.

Ornatus having taken leave of Artesia, went to the Camp; where he ordered his affairs so discreetly, that he was taken by all to be Phylastes. Newes came that the Armenians were landed, and had brought their forces within a dayes march of Thæons Camp: then the King assembled all the chief Leaders together, to appoint every man his charge, and consult what to do.

Ornatus in Phylastes stead, had under his charge four thousand men, whom by his own seeking, he was appointed to convey into a Wood, that stood fitly to offend the Enemy;

and

and the rest appointed to other places, that seemed for most advantage.

Ornatus having his Souldiers alone, thought it time to execute what he intended; and therefore called to him such as were Captains and chief under him, uttering these speeches:

Fellow Souldiers, I would willingly utter my minde, which is troubled in some sort with the remembrance of the injuries Allinus hath cautelously endured, against whom now we address our selves to fight; wherein, in my minde, we deal unjustly: for he was never Traitor to his Country, nor now cometh to disturb the Land with oppression, but onely to claim his own inheritance and liberty, which our selves do permit: therefore I think it best before we draw our Weapons, to consider against whom we draw them, and whom we offend; one that loveth us, his Country, and people, and would not willingly shed a drop of our blood.

Now if I could finde a remedy for all this, which standeth with equity, would you follow my directions? With that, they all at once said, they would be ruled by him. Then he said, Thæon that is now our King, destroyed all the late Kings Family, and such as were in any degree near unto him in blood; the last of whom is Allinus, whose utter ruine he now seeketh, not by justice, but that neither he, nor any of his Progeny should hinder his succession: therefore if you would follow my counsel, when the Armies are met, let us not offer to offend the Armenians, but keep our selves from fight, until Lenon affrighted therewith, and fearing the peoples revolt, will peradventure yield to perform the Articles the Armenians demand: and by this means we shall restore Allinus to his right, save the effusion of blood, and yet not wrong our Reputation. The people hearing his speech, generally gave their consent: crying Phylaxes, Phylaxes. With that, Ornatus bestowed the gold among them that Lenon had before given him, which prevailed with the multitude exceedingly.

Ornatus

Ornatus having effected this according to his desire, went to the Armenian Camp, desiring to speak with Allinus their General, to whom he declared what he intended in his behalf, not discovering himself to any other then Philastes, for which Allinus yielded him hearty thanks.

Whilest Ornatus was absent, a Captain named Ortonus, drawn by desire of reward, and above the rest favouring Lenons party, stole from the Camp, and coming to the Prince, told him what he had heard; which when Lenon understood, he thought it not best to send for him by command, but among the rest to summon him to Counsel, and to that effect sent a Herald. Ornatus being returned had knowledge of the general Assembly and willingly went, little suspecting what Lenon intended, and being entred the Camp, he was in the presence of Lenon and all the Nobles, arrested by a Herald for High Treason. Ornatus then thought his design was discovered, demanding what they could lay to his Charge? and thereupon Ortonus before them all declared what he had done, which he could not deny; upon which accusation he was sent to the Court and imprisoned.

CHAP. XV.

How *Ornatus* was delivered out of Prison, and carried *Artesia* from the Court: How in a single Duel he overcame *Lenon*, and caused *Thaons* flight: And how *Artesia* fled to *Adellenaes* house.

The news of Ornatus imprisonment was soon blazed throughout the whole Camp, Court, and Country, which at last came to Artesiaes hearing, who with extream lamentations bewailed his misfortune: But Philastes coming unto her comforted her all that he could, promising to set Ornatus at liberty, if, quoth he, at Lenons next coming you will request his Mignet for your safety and deliverance.

The

The next day the Armies were to meet, therefore that night Lenon visited Artesia, and finding her very sad demanded the cause thereof. My Lord, said she, how can I be otherwise then sad, when I am ready every hour to fall into more misery, not knowing whether your life may be endangered by these Wars, and I subject to more misfortune; therefore in sign you love me, grant me your Signet to be my Warrant and Privilege against any injury that may be offered me; with that she kist him, which she had never before done, not drawn by any good will, but with desire to help Ornatus. Lenons heart was so overcome, that presently he gave her the same, staying some time in her company to entreat her favourable opinion of him. He was no sooner gon, but Philastes taking the Ring of Artesia, went unto the place where Ornatus was, and coming to the Gaoler told him he must deliver up Phylastes to his custody, shewing him the Princes Signet as his warrant.

The Gaoler seeing the same, and knowing that the Pilgrim was in great trust with Lenon, made no doubt, but presently deliver'd Ornatus to him, both departing to Artesia, who seeing her beloved so fortunately delivered, shed tears of joy for his escape.

After salutations in the kindest sort past, Ornatus declar'd what he intended, and how he was betrayd by Ortonus. Philastes then counselled Ornatus that night to convey Artesia from thence unto some place of better security, who sometimes thought to carry her to Adellenaes house, but he fearing Lenon would mistrust that place: At last he concluded to convey her to her Fathers Castle, which was still kept for her use by some of Arbastus Servants: Both Artesia and Philastes liked this well, therefore leaving the Court they departed thither; but she being not wonted to travel, could hardly hold out, but by their help they arrived there about midnight, and knocking awaked the Porter, who looking over the Battlements demanded who was there at that unseasonable time? My friend, quoth Ornatus, it is Artesia, that cometh in time

other most need for harbour in this place. The Porter viewing her well by the bright light of Cinthia, knew her, and so opened the Gate.

Ornatus was glad of this happy escape, but yet exceeding sad that he could not assist his Father against Lenon but that he must by force be absent from his rescue, saying, O that I were but present to aid my Father against his enemy. Artesia hearing his speeches, said: Good Ornatus, do not again hazard your person as you lately did, for had not Fortune and Philastes wisdom assisted us, both your life and with it mine, had been cast away. My dear Lady, quoth he, that misfortune hath taught me wisdom, and therefore I beseech you let me once again go to aid my Father, which I will now do without danger, for that I will make none privy to what I intend nor attempt more then I am able to perform. Artesia seeing how fully he was bent to go, preferred his will before her own desire, knowing it her duty not to contradict, but to counsel him, and therefore said:

Dear Ornatus, my duty bids me to consent, but my love willeth me to deny, fear of mishap maketh me unwilling for fear your person should be endangered, therefore pray take Philastes along with you, and leave me to the custody of my Servants, of whose fidelity I am assured of.

Ornatus hearing these speeches to proceed from her tender heart, desired her to be contented, telling her Philastes should go with him, whereupon they both armed themselves, and riding towards the Camp they beheld the Armies joyned together in cruel conflict, which caused them to stand a while looking on them, to see which would obtain victory; and in the end they beheld the Armenians to retire, and Thæon and Lenon in the midst of them, making an exceeding slaughter: This set Ornatus heart on fire, that rushing in amongst the thickest of his Country men, not spilling an drop of their blood, he came to Lenon, after whom Philastes followed. The soldiers seeing these two Knights offend none, marvelled what they should be.

By this time Ornatus was come to the place where Lenon was, who even just at that time had found Allinus, between whom many wounds and sharp blowes were given; but Allinus had the worst by reason of his age. Ornatus knowing his Father by his Armour, crept between them with his sword drawn, saying: Stay thy hand, and let age goe free; come if thou dareſt and cope with me, who am come to challenge thee before both the Armies, therefore as thou art a Kings Son, a Knight, and honoured Armes, give order by a Herald to stay the fury of the Battle, till thou and I have tried our valours, otherwise this Knight and I have vowed to haunt thee from place to place to work thy wofull.

Lenon hearing this Challenge, said: If thou art a Knight and Gentleman as I am; and canſt shew wherein I have wronged thee, I will answer thee, otherwise know that I do scorn thee, although I know my self of sufficient strength to abate thy haughty presumption, were it never so great: With that two Heralds were sent from either General to part the Souldiers; which being done, Ornatus before the whole Assembly said:

Lenon; First, I say I am a Gentleman as absolute and as good as thy self, Prince I am none, neither art thou but by Usurpation: I come as Artelias Champion, to tax thee of disloyalty; I challenge thee for doing injustice against Allinus; I challenge thee as a Conspirator of Arbantus death; I challenge thee for the heavy Taxes laid upon the true subjects of the Land; and lastly, for detaining Ornatus a Prisoner: Therefore if thou dareſt answer me, I am here ready for thee, if not I will declare thee a Coward, and unworthy to handle Weapons.

I value not a strangers accusation, quoth Lenon, and being judge my self, will not by thee be adjudged; but for thy proud Challenge I will answer it, as little regarding what thou canſt do: whereupon they alighted each of them hasty their Swords drawn, continuing a terrible fight for the space of half an hour, Ornatus calling to remembrance the injuries

he had received, and that Lenon and none else could dispossess him of Artenias love, and many other wrongs he had done him and his Parents, thought now to revenge them all, and dispossess Theæon of the Crown, that Ornatus smot his adversary such a vehement blow where his Armour was broken, that Lenon fell senseless upon his Horse.

Theæon perceiving this, came rushing in with his Guard to save his Sons life, which had he not done Ornatus had severed his head from his body: whereupon both the Armies joyned battle again, the Armenians with fresh courage assailing their enemies, whose hearts began to fail, seeing Lenon so near death, which made such a confusion amongst them, that they were ready to flie or yield to Allimus, rather then fight it out, that on a sudden the Armenians had slain an infinit number of them, and all the earth was died into a purple colour with their blood.

Ornatus was vexed to see his Country men so slaughtered, that he intreated Philastes to perswade the Souldiers to cease over, riding between the two Armies with a Herald, waving his Sword above his head, desiring them to stay their fury for a little space: Long it was before they would desist; but at length by the sound of the Drums and Trumpets, having called back the Armenians, Ornatus placing himself in the midst of his Country men, that a number might hear him, said:

Renowned People of Phrigia, hear my speech that am unwilling to see so much of our blood shed; the effusion whereof I seek by all means to stop, having as you see for the love I bear you, not lifted up my hand against any of you save onely Lenon; the causes that urged me to challenge him is the manifest wrong he and his Father hath done to the Country and all the Nobility, for the true testimony whereof, let every one inwardly examine his own Conscience, and they will not deny my words, but finde themselves exceedingly grieved with his oppression: Do you not see what destruction he hath wrought upon this Land, Are not almost all the Nobility slain and destroyed, Are not your Liberties, Goods,

and Friends taken from you? Is not the whole Land in an uproar, and every one driven from his quiet at home to venture his life in the Field, and all this for satisfaction of his will and self-com mand, not grounded upon Law or Justice, Examine your Consciences; was he your lawful King, Did not he murther your Anointed Sovereign to make you his Vassals, Again, doth Allinus seek to do his Country wrong, Doth he come to oppress you? doth he come to take away your Liberties, or lay heavy Taxes upon you, No, he only is come to demand his inheritance unjustly taken from him, and to punish the murtherers of his Royal Ancestors: He comes constrained by grief, not to live as a banished man, being constrained to live in obscurity to satisfie the Usurpers ambition; then I beseech you dear Country men consider well what you do; whom do you offend a Traitor; whom you resist, a dear friend, who loveth you all, whose condition Strangers pity; but his own Country mens hearts are hardned against him, repaying cruelty for his love, and oppose him endeavouring to regain his right: I could alleage so many reasons to dissuade you from adhering to this Tyrant, as would ask a tedious recital; but I know you have understanding to conceive the right, your hearts merciful to pity him, and your minds apt to do justice: Then assert him, discharge your minds of care, and disburden your selves of his oppression; I stand here as an Advocate to plead for Allinus right, that hath suffered too much wrong: I stand here as Artesias Champion that is imprisoned by Lenon, and withheld from her liberty by him: I stand here to entreat you to save your own lives, to preserve your Liberties, to execute Justice, and to do Allinus right.

When he had ended these speeches, he said further; I beseech you, quoth he, lay aside your Armes taken up in defence of wrong, and turn your hearts to pity innocency, whereby you shall save many of your lives, shew you selves men that are ruled by Wisdom, not by Rage, and purchase Liberty, Freedom, and Peace for ever.

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Now you that bear the true hearts of Parisians follow me, and forsake that Usurper, and flie that ruine and destruction which may ensue, and let the lawful heir enjoy the possession of the Crown.

The peoples hearts were so altered with his speeches, that many came running to him, crying out, Allinus, Allinus, and those that staid behind were in a doubt what to do; whereupon Duke Ternus commanded his Forces to follow him, who making use of this opportunity withdrew them from the sight of the Camps, letting them offend or defend none.

Thæon had no sooner conveyed his Son to his Tent, and with much ado recovered him to his senses, but there came a Messenger posting from the Court, with newes that Philaftes was two dayes escaped out of Prison, and then another came and brought tidings that Artesia was fled with the Pilgrim, which when Lenon heard, he fell into such a passion, that his wounds bled afresh; and more to fill up both their hearts with sorrow, another came with all speed, saying: Flie Thæon flie, we are betrayd to the Enemy, the Leaders, Captains, and Souldiers are revolted, and the Rebels are near at hand to surprize thee; flie, flie to save thy life, for all thy Subjects have left thee, and now refuse thy Government. Thæon was so amazed and terrified with fear, that not regarding his sons life he fled to save himself, every one (saving those that fled with Thæon) running to their revolted fellowes to save themselves.

This news was soon brought to Allinus, who hearing the same, and being past fear of Thæons rage, sent a Herald unto Ternus to know whether he was his Enemy or his Friend; whereupon the Duke presently disbanded his Souldiers, and with great joy came to Allinus, whom he most kindly saluted; and there being assembled the chief Peers and Nobles of the Land, Allinus said:

My noble Lords, since Thæon and Lenon are fled, and none left but your Honours in place of Justice, with right and equity to minister the same to such as have received wrong, I

as

as one that have suffered the greatest loss, commit my cause to your judicious consideration: You know what loss I have endured through his malice for endeavouring to set Artesia at liberty, that was by Lenon imprisoned and ignobly used, requesting nothing of you but that which by right is mine by inheritance.

The Nobles generally consented that he should enjoy his former possessions, and that all his Losses should be paid out of the Kings Exchequer: When Ornatus standing by, said as followeth.

But noble Peers you stand here debating matters, whilest the cause of your woe is yet living, and far enough from yielding to what you grant, who now peradventure is mustering up new Forces to frustrate what you intend, which to prevent, give me your consents to pursue him, and he being once taken, then may you without control establish him, or chuse another.

To this all the Nobles gave consent, and Ornatus with three thousand Horsemen followed Theon, who first took the Green Fortress with five hundred men, who won by great rewards continued firm: But hearing of the enemies approach in the night he fled with a hundred of his Friends and Kindred towards Arbastus Castle, where he thought to live secure and unknown, for that he thought his Enemies would least of all suspect that place: He arrived there at midnight, and knocking at the Gate was denied entrance, which made him attempt to open them by force, and being entred he caused the same to be shut fast after him.

Artesias Servants knowing him, ran several wayes for to hide themselves, and one came running into her Chamber to tell her what had befalln: But she not hearing of her beloveds victory, and the Kings overthrow, wringing her hands in great lamentation, saying: Twice hath my dear Ornatus left me in this sad condition: Now assuredly he is taken prisoner again, and I am not like to be long free, for I am sure the King seeks after me: O that I might enjoy his sight, I

should

would then think my self happy in misery; but I much fear they will privately murther him, and never let me know of it: Never was poor Maid brought to such misery, or ever thus crost in her desire.

As she was continuing these lamentations, the same Servant, whose name was Thristus, came running in again, saying: Dear Mistress, I have found a means for your escape from heare unespied, if you will attempt it. Never tell me, quoth she, what it is, but be thou my Guide, and I will follow thee. Then said he, fear nothing: And taking her by the hand, he led her out of that Room into a dark entry, until he came to a Postern Gate, which he opened and shut again, desiring her to be comforted; whereupon she desired him to direct her to Adellenaes house, where being come, they knocked, which caused the Maid to demand who was there? It is I, said Artesia, good Anna let me in, whereupon she let her in, and conducted her to her Mistress Chamber, who espying her was so surprized, that with tears of joy she imbraced her, saying: Welcome my dear Artesia, I was afraid I should never have seen you again. Indeed, replied she, I have been long absent from you, yet not far off; but I have news of importance to tell thee, which as yet I will forbear to declare, until I have refreshed my self; for care, fear, and travel, hath made me exceeding weary: Then Adellena brought her into a sweet and pleasant Bed, where she laid her down to rest.

CHAP. XVI.

How *Ornatus* surprized *Thæon* in *Arbastus* Castle, who was slain by one of his own Servants.

BY this time Ornatus had information that Thæon was entred the Queen Fortress, which caused him to beset the same round with Horsemen, who took certain of the Kings party and brought them before Ornatus, who declared that he was fled to Arbastus Castle, which when he heard, without delay he rod thither, fearing least Thæon getting in, and finding Artesia would do her some injury: He was no sooner come, but he found it so; for he seeing none of Artesias Servants whom he left there there to keep it, nor could not get entrance of any that he saw, which did so much disquiet his heart, that he could not tell what to do, thinking it best to entreat Thæon kindly, least he should take revenge against Artesia, though she were innocent, and not to be blamed for any thing; and such a multitude of contrarious fancies arose in his fancy, that he seemed metamorphosed therewith, whereupon he summoned the King from the Walls, who appearing thereon, demanded what he would have? I would have you yield said Ornatus? Suppose I would yield, replied Thæon, how would you use me? Like a King, said Ornatus. I have found, said Thæon, such small cause to trust you, that it were foolishness to put my self in your mercy, therefore I will keep my self where I am, not doubting ere long to have so many friends, as shall not onely chase ye before these Walls, but forth of the Country.

Ornatus was much troubled in mind to think what was became of Artesia, marvelling that he spake not of her, nor any of her Servants that might tell him how she fared: But seeing his fair words would not prevail, he said: Thæon,

since thou refusest the courteous proffer I make thée, know that my mind is altered, and since thou wilt not fairly yield, I will enforce thee to submit thy self to my mercy, or abide my rigour, for not all the friends thou haste shall shelter thée from my revenge, unless thou wilt surrender up Artesia, who is in safety within that Castle.

Artesia (quoth Thæon) had I her in my custody, I would be revenged on her, because thou wishest her well; but she is far enough from me, therefore thou requirest her at my hands in vain, who would as readily deliver her to thée as thou couldest ask, I do so little esteem her: But for my self, it shall never be said my mind will stoop to base submission, nor that a King yielded to his Vassal: Doest thou think that a Royal mind can put on so degerate a habit? No, I tell thee whosoever thou art, I had rather die then submit: But be thou advised what thou doest, nor stay long before these Wals, for there are so many whetting their Swords and putting on Armour in my defence, that before the Sun rises will scare thée from hence.

Ornatus heart could not endure these braves, and being withal vexed for fear that Artesia should sustain any wrong, he thought speedily to work revenge, which by Philastes counsel he remitted till night, that then unawares they might by some means get entrance into the Castle, and so surprize them; therefore thinking to walk alone by himself, to breath forth in sighs some part of the fear that possest his heart, and and withal determining to view the Castle how he might with conveniency get into the same without destroying it, because it belonged to his beloved, he espied the Postern Gate; whereat thrusting, presently it flew open, which door Thæon nor none of his followers knew of: Ornatus was glad he had found such a means to accomplish his will, and putting the same to again, came to Philastes and told him thereof. Then both of them presently agréed to enter that way and surprize them, conveying a hundred of the best Souldiers secretly under the Wall unto that Postern, and placed the rest in the o-

pen birds of the Caſtle, as if none of them had been wanting.

Ornatus and Philaſtes entred firſt, and the reſt followed, who paſſing along by the waſt Rooms, at laſt came unto the place where they had left Artesia, but found her not; and ſo fortunate ſucceſs had they in their attempt, that Ornatus coming behind Thæon met him on the ſhoulder with his hand, before he had any knowledge of his approach: Thæon therewith ſtarting and looking back was amazed, crying out to thoſe that were about him to defend themſelves, whereupon they drew their Swords; but Ornatus graſping Thæon ſaid: How now Uſurping King, where are thoſe mighty forces ſhould drive me hence? Will you yet yield, or ſtand to the trial by fight? I yield, qd. Thæon, but much again my will for had friends proved faithful, I had not been left thus; but ſince Fortune ſo much favours thee as to make me thy Priſoner, uſe me well, for that I am a King, and to none but thy ſelf am Captive. Tell me, ſaid Ornatus, what is become of Artesia, whom not long ſince I left here? I ſaw her not (quoth Thæon) nor know I where ſhe is, onely I found certain Servants in this place, whom I put to death leaſt they ſhould diſcover my being here. Tyrant (quoth Ornatus): thinkeſt thou that their deaths ſhall go unrevenged? Confeſs thou be ſo cruel as to murther thoſe that were innocent, with whom perhaps thou haſt murthered Artesia.

Why what art thou, quoth Thæon, that uſeſt ſuch undecent words to a King? And why makeſt thou ſuch enquiry after Artesia? Suppoſe I have ſlain her that was the cauſe of all this war, what then? It had been good ſhe had never been born, for ſhe alone hath been the onely cauſe of all theſe moleſtations.

Art thou a King, quoth Ornatus, and beareſt ſo baſe a mind as to ſlander true vertue? No, thou art a Villain, a Murtherer, a Traitor, a Usurper, and a moſt wicked and cruel Tyrant: But becauſe thou wouldeſt know who I am; I tell thee, That I have more intereſt to the Crown then thou, my

name to Ornatus, and I am thine Enemy; therefore lay hold on him such as are my friends, for he shall be tried as a Traitor before the Peers of the Land. He had no sooner uttered his words, but Thæons own Servants apprehended him, and one among the rest, thinking to gain reward, having his sword in his hand ready drawn, whilest Ornatus turned about to confer with Philastes, suddenly thrust the same through Thæons body, who yielding forth a grievous groan, gave up the Ghost. Ornatus looking behind him, asked who did that deed, whereupon the Murtherer drew back, fearing to come before him till he was compelled, to whom Ornatus said:

What art thou that hast done this deed? Art thou not one of his Servants? Hast thou not been maintained by him? Did he not trust thee with his life? Was he not thy King? How durst thou presume to lift up thy hand against thy Soveraign?

My Lord, said he, I did mistake your words, and hope to purchase my own life made me do it, which I thought would have pleased you. I am not, quoth he, sorry he is dead, but because thou slewest him, whom in all duty thou shouldst have defended, for which thou shalt die a miserable death. Then Ornatus commanded that he should be torn in pieces with Horses, which before he departed from the Castle he saw put in execution.

CHAP. XVII.

How *Ornatus* was chosen King: How he departed unknown in search of *Artesia*; how *Lenon* sought again to betray him, but was disappointed: How he was banished; *Floretus* pardoned, and *Ornatus* and *Artesia* Royally maried.

THe King being dead, Ornatus with Philastes returned to the Court, where all the Peers were assembled, who before his coming had by a voluntary Messenger understood the manner of Thæons death, the care whereof was already past, because few or none loved him; and now their care was whom to chuse for their King; yet first they welcomed Ornatus, none knowing him or conceiving what he was, who now seeing there was no further occasion to conceal himself, humbling himself before Allinus said:

My Renowned Lord, the cause I have so long concealed my self, hath been for fear of the Kings cruelty and Lenons envy, who both would have indangered me, but now being void of that misdoubt, your poor Son Ornatus submitted himself, humbly craving pardon for my neglect of duty; with that he unarmed his head, and his Father knowing him embraced him shedding tears of joy for for his safety, whom he thought had been long since dead.

Duke Ternus and the rest rejoyced to see him, with kinde embraces expressing their joy, entring into admiration of his noble Chivalry.

Allinus beholding Ornatus, and how valiantly he had behaved himself rejoyced exceedingly: The Commons clapt their hands for to see Philastes, whom they thought had been murthered by Lenon, and the Lords spake in praise of Ornatus: Then Duke Ternus standing up, said:

My

My Lords, we need not now defer giving Allinus his right, because there is none to contradict what we establish. Besides we being all now assembled together, and our late usurping King dead, there can be no fitter time to chuse a new King; and such a one, as by right of blood and our general consents may rule us. Thæon you all know was no way interested to the Crown, but by usurpation, and hath rooted out all that he knew to have any title or interest in our late Kings blood; of which house Allinus alone is the last, by marriage of the Lady Aura, Neice unto our late King: therefore the right being in him if there be any man in this Assembly that can contradict what I have said, let him speak: and then sate down again. Upon his speeches the Nobles consulted, the people confered, and at last the common Souldiers cried out, Let *Ornatus* be our King, *Ornatus* is our King. The Nobles likewise gave consent to that the multitude liked. and Ornatus was chosen King, whom they would have Crowned, but at his request, they deferred the day of his Coronation for a month, in the mean time esteeming him as their King: and that day setled him in possession with great state.

All business for that day being ended, the Armenians richly rewarded and feasted, were ready to return: Allinus in quiet, but for want of his Lady, and all things in good order: Ornatus being alone by himself, endured much disquiet for Artesia, marvelling what was become of her, sometimes thinking she was slain by Thæon, and then supposing she was escaped out at the Postern gate which he found open: that in these contrarieties of doubts, he continued a time; sometimes despairing, and then again feeding himself with hope.

After Artesia had rested her self, and regained some part of her sleep she had lost that night, though but with broken slumbers, she began to declare to Adellena what miseries she had suffered, and troubles she had past, since she was by Lewis exiled from her house: how she met with Ornatus again,

and

and every thing that had happened: with the cause of her flight at that instant. But Adellena, said she, I fear me I shall never see him again: for had he not been taken, and his father overthrown, Thæon could not have had so much leisure as to come and surprize me there, but the heavens granted me a fortunate escape. And if I could be so happy, as to hear that Ornatus were in safety, though he had not that success he aimed at, my heart would be at rest, which is now grievously tormented.

His adventurous valiant heart could not be withdrawn by perswasion to leave to aid his father; but notwithstanding infinite perils hung over his head, yet to shew the duty of a loving son, and the minde of a vertuous Gentleman, he would not desist to hazard his person, which now I fear me is fain into the hands of his enemies. But yet I hope Phylastes will by his good and friendly counsel, be a means to keep him from danger. Many other speeches Artesia used and Adellena as many on the contrary part, to perswade her that Ornatus was in safety: I have sent one of my servants to learn the truth of all that is happened, who I know will shortly return. Which fell out even as she had told, for the servant returned, bringing news of Lenons death, aided by a strange Knight, and how Thæon being fled, was surprized by the strange Knight, in Arbastus Castle, and slain by one of his own servants; which Knight was now known to be Ornatus, who was elected King by the Peers, but he had deferred the day of his Coronation by reason of some special grief that troubled him. Artesias heart was revived with this newes, knowing the grief Ornatus endured was for her absence, that presently she resolved to send him word of her safety; and wrote a letter, the contents whereof were these.

My Dear Ornatus,

NO News could have come more welcome to me then your safety, and nothing more unwelcome then to hear of your heavinesse; which I would entreat you to cease, for that I am in safety in *Adellenaes* house, being by one of my Servants the same night the King took my Castle, conveyed through a Postern-gate, and in safety brought hither, where I hope ere long to see you, which will repleniſh my Soul with exceeding comfort; for on your safety my life and felicity dependeth.

Yours for ever:
ARTESIA.

Having writ this Letter, she gave it to Thriſtus, willing him to deliver the same to Ornatus.

The Destinies do allot many to exceeding miseryes, some men are of that dishonourable and unmanly disposition, that they account all means to attain their desires Lawful, not regarding the shame and danger which followes, of which Nature was Lenon, who being conveyed by some of his familiars from the Camp, soon recovered, and disguised himself that he might not be known, having no other means to preserve his life left, therefore he concealed himself and followed Ornatus unknown, with an intent if he could get him in a private place to murther him: He saw his Father slain before his face, and intermingling himself among the multitude was taken for a Common Souldier.

Now Ornatus being returned to the Court, Lenon was then conveyed for fear of suspicion to leave following him, lurking sometimes in one place and sometimes in another, listning after Artesia, whose escape from the Castle he was assured of; and even as Thriſtus came out of Adellenaes house Lenon espied him, who knowing him to be one of Artesias Servants, suspected Artesia to be there, to whom he came, tap-

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ing: My friend well met, if I be not mistaken you are one of Artesias Servants, for whom I have a Letter from her dear Ornatus. Indeed, quoth Thristus, I serve Artesia, and am now going to Ornatus with a Letter from her. Lenon hearing his speech, presently drew his Dagger, and stab'd him to the heart; and when he had done read the Letter, imagining how he might be revenged on Ornatus, and afterward possess Artesia; and because he thought delay might hinder his intent, he this writes a Letter unto him, the Contents were these.

Dear ORNATUS.

THe News of your happy Victory and conquest of your Enemies is come to my knowledge, then which nothing could have been more welcom unto me: I hear that much heavines possesseth you for my absence, but I am in safety at the Lodge with *Adallena* near my Castle, where I desire you to come to me to morrow at night; in the mean time I will remit the manner of my escape, and manifestation of my love, until the happy time that I see you.

Yours, in all Love, Artesia.

When he had done this, he went to the Court, and carried the business so cunningly, that he was admitted to Philastes presence, to whom he delivered the Letter; for Ornatus himself being exceedingly troubled in mind, had left the Court, and was departed with two or three in his company in search of Artesia, and had left Philastes to answer those as should come with any request to him. Philastes being taken of all (but his Attendants) for Ornatus, received the Letter and rewarded the Messenger, promising to meet Artesia there at the time appointed: Now Lenon had a Kinsman named Lucertus, to whom he declared his intention of revenge against against Ornatus, who holped to aid him therein.

By this time Philastes had sent out a Messenger to seek Ornatus, whom having found he declares his charge, only mistaking the place; for whereas he should by his direction have

said at the Lodge, misplacing his words, he said at Adellenaes house; which causes him presently to hast thither, and Lenon to further his intent devised an answer of the Letter which he had taken from Thristus; the Contents whereof were as followeth.

To my most dear and well beloved *Artesia*.

Worthy Lady,

I Have received the Letter you sent me by your Servant, whom I have imployed about a matter of great importance, that none so fitly could execute as himself; which News was most welcome, to the comfort of my heart, that was almost overcome with despair of your safety, whereon my chiefest felicity dependeth; therefore omiting further recital of my joy for your safety, which this Paper cannot express, be confident I will meet you soon, where this my Servant will bring you, whose fidelity I assure you is such, as that he will do nothing but what I have given him in command; till which time of meeting, I cease all further circumstance of Speech.

Yours, Ornatus.

With this Letter Lenon went to Adellenaes house, and deliveres the same to Artesia, who reading it, and not knowing Ornatus hand, nothing suspected it, but believed it came from him, and determined to go with the Messenger to meet him: Whilest she was making preparation to go with Lenon, Adellenaes Maid came running in telling her there was another to speak with her from Ornatus, whereupon Artesia willed her to bring him in, to whom she said: I have received a Letter from Ornatus already, and therefore if you have any further message from him tell me. Ornatus thought it was sent by Philastes, but not knowing the Messenger marvelled thereat, saying: I cannot believe it came from him, for it is not yet an hour since he knew of your being here; and (looking upon the Letter) said, it came not from him, for it is not his hand. My friend, quoth he, to Lenon, when did he

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give thee this Letter, Yesterday, said Lenon. Then liest, replied Ornatus, therefore, said he to Artesia, believe him not, for he is come with some evil intent; commanding those as were with him to lay hands on him, who presently apprehended him, and pulling off his Hat and subtle disguise that he wore, knew him, whom all were afraid to touch, because they thought he had been dead.

Ornatus seeing Artesia in an exceeding fright, discovered himself and with great joy embraced her, desiring her not to be dismaid. Artesia then knowing him, soon forgot that agony, twining her armes about his manly body, to whom he said: Fear not my dear Artesia, for be it himself or his Ghost he shall not escape my hands: Lenon, said Ornatus, thou most discourteous and cowardly Villain, couldest thou not be contented to live in quiet, having once escaped my fury, but thou must by further Plots and Treacheries seek to betray this Lady that never did injure thee? How often hast thou interrupted her quiet, and from content brought her into misery? And knowing that she could not like thee, yet thou hast been so impudent as never to desist thy suit; but to attain thy desire, first depriv'd her of liberty, banished me in the disguise of Silvia, and afterwards sought to betray my Fathers life; and not satisfied with all these, like a Cowardly miscreant seeks to betray her, and for all thou hast beheld thy Fathers downfal and meritorious punishment, yet seekest to work her Tragedy by some wicked means, not yet revealed; for all which thou shalt at my pleasure receive condigne punishment.

Lenon seeing himself discovered, grew desperate, and scorned to be rebuked at his hands, whom he still counted his inferiour; but most of all grieving that it was such an enemy as he that had so long hindred his love, said:

Ornatus, I think thou hast either forgotten thy self, or else what I am, that at thy pleasure rebukest me with such unkind and reproachful tearms: Am I not thy better, and one that not long since might have commanded thee? Is thy

mind so elevated, that thou wilt not acknowledge it? Thou makest brags of thy Victory, when thou mayest rather with shame keep thy self silent, and with sorrow repent that thou hast sought the death of thy Lawful King, being but a Traytor to the Kingdom.

As he was about to speak further, Ornatus interrupted him, saying:

Hold thy peace, and do not stir my mind to more sharp revenge by thy audacious reply, for I scorn to hear thee, therefore give over, least I punish that Treasonable Tongue of thine for uttering those words in defence of vice. Since, said Lenon, thou wilt not let me speak in defence of my self, let me be conveyed from thy presence, for thy sight is odious to me, as mine to thee.

Whilest they continued in Adellenaes house, a Messenger came running in breathless, uttering these speeches:

Most worthy Ornatus, I bring thee a Message of much woe and heavy import: Yesterday there was a Messenger came to the Court, and brought a Letter in Artesias name to Philastes, who presently sent out a Messenger to give you knowledge thereof; but because he returned not, went himself with some twenty in his company to the place appointed, and entring he found not Artesia there, but a crew of Rebels, amongst whom Lucertus was chief, who all at once set upon him and his followers, thinking he had been prepared, having so many above the small number that went with Philastes, that they had soon slain most of them that were with him; and himself not able to withstand such a multitude, had received many grievous wounds, and had been certainly slain, had he not been preserved by Providence: But it hapned that day, that Duke Termus was going from the Court to his own house, who by great fortune hearing the noise, with his men hasted thither, and having knowledge of what was done, set upon Lucertus, whom they soon banquished, and having slain many of his Confederates, they carried him and such as were alive Prisoners to the Court, and with them Philastes in great danger of death.

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Ornatus heart was exceedingly grieved to hear of his dear friend Philastes hurt, but especially to think that he had not before attached Lucertus, which he was once in minde to do, and so he might have prevented all those mischiefs.

The night being come, Ornatus caused Lenon to be bound hand and foot, and put into a strong place of the house, with some to watch him, least he should do himself violence, whilest he and Artesia spent the evening in discoursing the manner of all their misfortunes, solacing themselves in each others love with Adellena, calling to remembrance the whole History of their troubles, onely procured by Lenon, the relation whereof making their present enjoyment more sweet and delicious.

Early the next morning, Ornatus putting on his Palmers weeds, covered Artesias face with a Veil, and carrying Lenon with him bound, departed towards the Court; for the Peers of the Land were still convened together (amongst whom was Allinus, whose vertuous Lady hearing of his happy success against Thæon, was that morning newly arrived at the Court, being entertained by him with abundance of joy) and by that time the Assembly were seated, and called Lucertus before them, Ornatus with his company were also arrived, though unknown, and standing aside, heard him confess how he was instigated to work revenge on Ornatus, and how Lenon was gon to betray Artesia. The whole Assembly marvelled when they heard him say, that Lenon perswaded him to it, and Allinus standing up, demanded how that could be, when he was dead. Lenon is not dead, replied Lucertus: whereupon Ornatus stepping in, thrust Lenon before him, and said: My Lords, this is the man that hath procured him to do all this mischief.

The Nobles beholding him were amazed at his sight, but being assured it was he by the perfect knowledge they had of him, Ternus said: Lenon, I once thought thou hadst born the mind of a Gentleman, but I find now the contrary: What led thee to such a rash attempt, as to hire Lucertus to slay Or-

natus,

natus, which he hath almost performed, and thy self to seek the death of that vertuous Lady, that hath already by thee suffered too much wrong.

Allinus had not as yet heard of Ornatus hurt, nor any knew the contrary but that Philastes was he, for according to the mind of a most vertuous and constant friend, still concealed himself; nor the Lady Aura had not yet seen her son, whom she had but heard of, that Allinus said: Is my Son Ornatus almost slain, Oh Traytor: whereupon Aura began likewise to make exceeding lamentation, which Ornatus was not able to behold, and therefore pulling off his disguised habit humbly reverenced himself before them upon his knee: Both his Parents knew him, and with exceeding joy embraced him, shedding abundance of tears for his safety; with that Duke Ternus and all the rest came to him, using such behaviour toward him as appertained unto a King, seating him in a Chair of State, to whom he said: My noble Lords, I thank you for investing me with this exceeding Honour, and since your Lordships have made a free Election of me to be your King, I accept of your bounteous proffer, appointing this day for Our Coronation, because I have now no further cause of care, nor reasons to defer the same; and the rather because we will see Justice executed upon those Traytors and Conspirators against Our State and Person. The Nobles with most joyful hearts gave consent, and immediately crowned him, reverencing him upon their knees; which done, Ornatus rising from his Imperial Seat, came to Arteſia taking her by the hand, and leading her up to the Throne seated her in the Chair, placing the Crown upon her head, saying: My Lords, as you have elected me your King, I pray likewise be contented with what I do, and let this be your Queen: Then he pulled off the Veil from Arteſias face, and her clear beauty appeared to the admiration of all; who beholding the same did her humble reverence, heartily rejoycing at her safety, esteeming him more happy in his vertuous Choice, then in obtaining the Kingdom.

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When this was done, she discended and embraced them, yielding them many thanks, who all shewed such exceeding kindness, that their hearty expressions very much rejoyced the two Lovers, especially their Parents and the Duke, and his Lady, who with many embracings, which they thought they could not sufficiently express, rejoyced to see her in safety: And by that time Ornatus was sent to again, and Artesia by him, Philastes hearing of his return, notwithstanding his many grievous wounds, made a hazard to come into their presence; whom he beheld both Crowned, which caused him immediately to fall upon his knee and do them reverence, whom they kindly embraced, rejoycing to see so much hopes of his recovery.

After they had spent some time in their unfeigned salutations, they willed Philastes to sit down amongst them; and Ornatus commanding Floretus and the rest to be sent for out of Prison, thus said:

Now there resteth nothing but to give Sentence against those that by Conspiracies have been Murtherers, which is so heinous a Fact, that it makes them odious to the World; in which offence Lenon, Lucertus, and Floretus, are all guilty; therefore, said Ornatus to Lenon, declare what moved thee to commit so many grievous acts. Lenons heart was swell'd with veration to see him Crowned, and Artesia chosen his Queen, that hanging down his head he gave no answer, but Lucertus humbled himself upon his knee, and craved pardon of his Majesty.

By this time Floretus was brought in, who looked with such a meager and pale countenance by reason of his long imprisonment, that Artesia wept to behold him, and could not chuse but run and embrace him, upon her knee intreating Ornatus to pardon the offence he had committed, which was against none but her self.

Ornatus seeing her kneel, suddenly caught her up, and imbracing him, caused his hands to be unbound, to whom he said: I not onely with a willing heart pardon you, but also give un-

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to you for ever all those possessions which belonged unto your Brother Arbastus, wishing that as you have found mercy from us here, that you would likewise endeavour to make your peace with Heaven, that you may find the like hereafter. Floretus, who expected nothing but death, was exceeding joyful, and humbly upon his knee yielded many thanks. Ornatus then seating himself again, said:

Because this Day is the first of Our Reign, which should begin with Mercy, and not with Rigour, there shall not one drop of Blood by Our Command be split; and therefore Lemon, though thou deservedst no favour but a most miserable death, We freely pardon thee, but banish thee Our Court, where on Pain of Death set not thy Foot, least thy life Ransome thy presumption: As for you Lucertus, We command you upon Our high Displeasure to depart this Land, from whence We banish you for ever, which Doom is too merciful.

This said, taking his Lady by the hand, he was by the Peers with a noise of Trumpets and exceeding joy, conducted to a Chappel, and in Royal manner married to Artesia, and from thence to an Imperial Feast, spending all that day in great pleasures, and at night taking Lawful delight in her Love; both then, and during the time of both their lives, living in most pleasant, loving, and vertuous sort; insomuch, that most places of the known World were filled with the report of their vertuous Lives and peaceable Government.

FINIS.